

WELBEKEND

Fire Protection association
Reg nr: 2154/01

Welbekend Fire Protection Association

National Veld and Forest Fire Act 1998 (Act 101 of 1998)

Chapter 4: Prevention of Veld Fires (Summary)

1. The owner of a property where a veld fire may originate, burn, or spread must proactively establish and maintain firebreaks on their side of the fence or adjoining property boundaries.
2. The owner must notify their neighbors and the Fire Protection Association of their intent to create firebreaks.
3. If no agreement is reached with neighbors, the owner must formally notify them and the Fire Protection Association in writing, considering the Fire Danger Index, which can be obtained from the association.
4. The owner of the adjacent property must take the following steps:
    - Firebreaks should be made on the same day as those of the neighboring property.
    - The owner or their appointed representative must be present.
    - Sufficient equipment and personnel must be available on their side.
5. The owner may not proceed with firebreaks or precautionary burns if:
    - The Fire Protection Association has disapproved of it.
    - The Fire Danger Index is too high.
    - Conditions are unfavorable for creating firebreaks.
6. When creating firebreaks, the owner must consider:
    - Weather, climate, terrain, and vegetation.
    - A firebreak wide enough to provide a reasonable chance of preventing the spread of a veld fire to adjacent properties.
    - Measures to prevent soil erosion.
    - Ensuring the firebreak is relatively free of combustible material to prevent the spread of the veld fire.
7. The right to create a firebreak takes precedence over the preservation of vegetation, provided that:
    - Measures are in place to rehabilitate such vegetation.
    - The placement of firebreaks considers the existing vegetation.

Chapter 5: Fighting Fires

1. The owner of a property where firebreaks are made, a veld fire has started, or has the potential to spread must:
    - Ensure that sufficient personnel and equipment are available, and that combustible material is removed.
      Note: Two spades and a watering can are not sufficient.
    - Provide protective clothing and training in fire suppression for personnel.
    - Appoint a responsible person in their absence.
2. If an owner suspects that a fire has started on their property or their neighbor's, they must immediately:
    - Inform their neighbors.
    - Notify the Fire Protection Association.
    - Take all necessary actions to prevent the fire from spreading further.
3. Any person, along with personnel under their supervision, may take control of such a fire to prevent its spread and may:
    - Enter the property and cut fences if necessary.
    - Destroy trees, grass, grazing land, or vegetation if required.
    - Prohibit unauthorized persons from entering the property.
    - Remove individuals who obstruct their duties or are in danger, using force if necessary.
    - Order the removal of vehicles and other items if they pose a risk.
4. If a fire crosses into another Fire Protection Association's jurisdiction, it must be reported to them immediately.
5. All available measures must be taken to control and coordinate the fire response.

Join the Fire Protection Association!
The association requires critical information for strategic planning. Start by cutting the grass on your property—it helps fire teams assist you at their own expense without putting their equipment or vehicles at risk.

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