

BUSINESS PLAN POTCHEFSTROOM FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION



Accepted at the AGM of the Potchefstroom Fire Protection Association

On the

25th of April 2012

Updated & Accepted: 12 February 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

AUTHORISATIONS AND APPROVALS

- 1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**
- 2. SCOPE OF THE BUSINESS PLAN**
 - 2.1. Area
 - 2.2. Period of operation
- 3. THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE AREA OF THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
 - 3.1. Background and history of the Potchefstroom Fire Protection Association
 - 3.2. Social considerations
 - 3.3. Economic considerations
 - 3.4. Environmental considerations
 - 3.5. Veldfires in the Potchefstroom area
 - 3.5.1. Veldfires and climate
 - 3.5.2. Origins and causes of veldfires
 - 3.5.3. Vegetation and fire behaviour
 - 3.5.4. Veldfire history
 - 3.5.5. Veldfires and their role in the environment
 - 3.6. Laws applying to veldfires in the Potchefstroom area
 - 3.7. Current veldfire management
 - 3.8. Assessment of the effects of past veldfires
 - 3.8.1. Social impact
 - 3.8.2. Economical impacts
 - 3.8.3. Environmental impacts
 - 3.9. Criteria for evaluation veldfire risk
- 4. THE POTCHEFSTROOM VELDFIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**
 - 4.1. Aim and objectives of the strategy
 - 4.1.1. Aim
 - 4.1.2. Objectives
 - 4.2. Hazards identified
 - 4.3. Assets description
 - 4.3.1. Social assets
 - 4.3.2. Economical assets
 - 4.3.3. Environmental assets
 - 4.4. Veldfire risks within the Potchefstroom area
 - 4.5. Resources for veldfire management
 - 4.5.1. Institutional Capacity
 - 4.5.2. Personnel
 - 4.5.3. Equipment and facilities
 - 4.5.4. Communications
 - 4.5.5. Support from an umbrella association
 - 4.5.6. Assessment of the adequacy of resources and the need for improvement

- 4.6. Veldfire risk management strategies
 - 4.6.1. Veldfire risk management options
 - 4.6.2. Risk management strategies
- 5. **OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE VELDFIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**
 - 5.1. Fire prevention plan
 - 5.2. Fire preparedness plan
 - 5.3. Fire suppression and recovery plan
 - 5.4. Plan for co-ordination with neighbouring FPA`s
 - 5.5. Plan for support from the umbrella FPA
 - 5.6. Plan for fire investigations, records, and reporting
 - 5.7. Plan for upgrade of resources
- 6. **MONITORING AND REVIEW AND THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR THIS PURPOSE**
- 7. **THE RULES OF THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**
 - 7.1. Chapter 4 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act: Firebreaks
 - 7.1.1. Minimum firebreak requirements
 - 7.1.2. Rules regarding arrangements between neighbours
 - 7.2. Chapter 5 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act: Fire Fighting
 - 7.2.1. Minimum fire fighting equipment requirements
 - 7.2.2. Minimum personnel requirements
 - 7.3. General rules regarding the use of fire (examples)
 - 7.4. Rules governing mutual aid agreements
 - 7.5. Fire prevention and preparedness during periods of high fire danger
 - 7.6. Fire prevention and preparedness during periods of moderate fire danger:
Fire restriction periods (replace fire prohibition under the old forest act)
 - 7.6.1. Definition of periods
 - 7.6.2. Requirements during seasons of early onset
 - 7.7. Appropriate fire regimes for prescribed burning
 - 7.8. Smoke management and pollution control
 - 7.9. Enforcement
 - 7.9.1. By-laws for non-members
- 8. **LIST OF THE POWERS AND DUTIES WHICH SHOULD BE DELEGATED BY THE MINISTER TO THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 5(1)(K) OF THE ACT**

AUTHORIZATIONS AND APPROVALS

This business plan has been accepted by the members of the Potchefstroom Fire Protection Association at its AGM on 12 February 2020 and the members in doing so have committed themselves to meeting the duties of the Association as set out in this document and following the rules adopted by the Association.

Dr WJ Roux

12 February 2020

Chairperson

Date

This business plan has been developed by the members of the Potchefstroom Fire Protection Association in consultation with the Directorate Public Safety and the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality as Fire Service as required in Section 5(2) of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act.

Mr A Booysen

12 February 2020

Authorized representative
Fire Service Potchefstroom

Date

1. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is a strategy document that sets out the approach and plans of the Potchefstroom Fire Protection Area (FPA) to reducing and mitigating veldfire risks within the area.

2. SCOPE OF THE BUSINESS PLAN

2.1. Area

The boundaries of Potchefstroom FPA correspond with the magisterial boundaries of the Tlokwe City council in North-West. The area of the Potchefstroom FPA amounts to about 200 000 hectares.

2.2. Period of operation

This business plan will apply for five years from 12 February 2020 – 12 February 2025

3. THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE AREA OF THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

3.1. Background and history of the Potchefstroom FPA

Landowners within the area of this FPA have co-operated for various purposes for some time. The structures for co-operation have included the following:

- Potchefstroom Disaster management volunteers has been effective for several decades.
- Potchefstroom FPA , Telkom, Eskom, Roads Department, SAPS and all land owners within the Tlokwe city council boundaries came together in a joint effort to establish the association. At this meeting it was decided to form the Potchefstroom FPA.

3.2. Social considerations

The Potchefstroom area has a population of about 230 511 including townships, informal settlements, mine properties etc.

The most important change in recent times has been the implementation of emergent farming and forming of more informal settlements, contributing to a large extent to the creation of new employment opportunities and knowledge of the damage veldfires can cause. Unemployment levels remain high in the area, and literacy and skills levels are low.

The area has an important cultural heritage, including:

- Vredefort Dome area
- Gold Carriage Route
- Heritage sites

3.3. Economic considerations

Potchefstroom is both a rural and urban economy with the following sectors making the largest contributions:

- Mining industry
- Stock farming: extensive stock and grain farming on about 200 000 hectares contributes to millions per year
- Other farming: new economic growth as been stimulated by the shift to farming projects e.g. Dairy farms, pig farms, chicken farms and assistance to emergent farmers
- Game farms especially in the Vredefort Dome area is very important.

3.4. Environmental considerations

Updated 12 February 2020

Because of the fluctuation in rainfall and therefore changing growth rate of especially Grace fields, the natural veld recovers very slowly after veldfires. This is detrimental to stock farming and eco-tourism.

3.5. Veldfires in the Potchefstroom area

3.5.1. Veldfires and climate:

Veldfires occur mostly during winter, from about early March to end of September before the summer rains, especially after high-rainfall seasons with lots of dry grass. During this period the climate and daily weather are dominated by hot dry winds.

3.5.2. Origins and causes of veldfires:

Currently, the reported causes and origins of wildfires are mainly the following:

- Ignitions from negligent treatment of picnic, cooking or warming fires or disposal of ash from coal fires at farmsteads and townships.
- Hunters with dogs.
- Fires are sometimes caused by various human activities on farms.
- Grass near informal settlements contributes to hiding place for criminals and people staying in these places purposely burn the grass down to ensure their safety.

3.5.3. Vegetation and fire behaviour:

Table 1 contains a description of the fire regime and fire behaviour in the main types of vegetation within the area of the Potchefstroom FPA.

TABLE 1: Summary descriptions of the fire regime and fire behaviour in the main types of vegetation within the area of the Potchefstroom FPA

Vegetation or cover type	Approximate cover, percent	Fire Regime	Fire Behaviour
Grassland with trees & bushes	35%	This grassland type burns mainly during winter, especially after seasons of high rainfall. Firebreaks are difficult in some areas because of the irregular terrain. Fires are difficult to extinguish because of the terrain which includes sink holes and difficulty to get water near fires.	Rapid changes of wind, turbulences at mountains etc. are experienced from time to time.
Vlei-lands	10%	This mixed grass and other vegetation burns quickly especially early winter.	Because the grasses are tall, heading fires during dry windy frontal weather move very fast with flame lengths of 2-6m.
Mixed shrubs, grass and bush	55%	Fires occur regularly in these areas. Fires arise in or enter these areas mainly during the winter.	Under moderate conditions, these fires burn slowly, with flame lengths of 1-2m. During windy weather, these fires move very fast.

3.5.4. Veldfire history:

Veldfires have always been feature of the environment in this area after seasons of high rainfall. Major veldfires and run-away fires occurred regularly. These fires occurred mainly following years of heavy rainfall. The worst losses occurred in 2013 when thousands of hectares of natural veld were destroyed and loss of animal live, farm implements, vehicles and structures were experienced.

3.5.5. Veldfires and their role in the environment:

Veldfires are always detrimental in the Potchefstroom environment, because the effect it has on farming and the economy. Absence of vegetation, as a result of veldfires, combined with low rainfall and then followed by severe thunderstorms, also leads to severe soil-erosion. Roads were closed on many occasions as a direct result there-of.

3.6. Laws applying to veldfires in the Potchefstroom area

- Fire Brigade Services Act
- National Veld and Forest Fire Act
- Disaster Management Act

3.7. Current veldfire management

The main elements of current veldfire management include the following:

- A fire protection officer has been appointed to co-ordinate veldfire management.
- A list was compiled of all the available equipment in each sector.
- Communication is mainly by means of two-way radio, cell phones and Telkom phones, through the established network.
- The area is well known by the members, because they are farmers.

3.8. Assessment of the effects of past veldfires

3.8.1. Social impacts:

The outline of the history of veldfires in the Potchefstroom area in 3.5.4. Above highlights the following social impacts:

- Loss of livelihoods

3.8.2. Economic impacts:

Veldfires have a positive economic impact in the Potchefstroom district. In 2013 the Potchefstroom area was declared a disaster area and a few farmers went bankrupt because of it.

Economic costs recorded recently include the following:

- Loss of implements and vehicles
- Loss of pastures requiring expensive replacement by buying fodder
- Loss of livestock

3.8.3. Environmental impacts:

Veldfires have no positive environmental impacts in the Potchefstroom district.

Negative environmental impacts arise from:

- Denuded areas as a result of veldfires followed by periods of low rainfall and hot, dry wins and then followed by severe thunderstorms results in severe soil-erosion. Several roads were closed by floodwaters and soil the past few years.
-

3.9. **Criteria for evaluating veldfire risk**

Members of the Association have agreed on the following criteria, in order of importance, to evaluate veldfire risks, judge their acceptability and assign priorities:

- Threats to lives: no death from veldfires is acceptable.
- Threat of injury to people.
- Loss of livelihoods.
- Loss of shelter.
- Financial loss and loss of economic activity.
- Loss of natural species of habitats.

4. **THE POTCHEFSTROOM VELDFIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

4.1. **Aim and objectives of the strategy**

4.1.1. **Aim:**

The FPA aims to contribute to community development by eliminating loss of life and human injury in veldfires and by progressively reducing impacts on property and environmental values. The FPA aims to have its veldfire management strategy deployed throughout its area during this five-year period.

4.1.2. **Objectives:**

- To manage all extreme risks to the level of high, and high risks to the level of moderate within five years.
- To get all role-players in the Potchefstroom area involved in the Potchefstroom FPA;
- To achieve full compliance with the provisions of Chapters 4 and 5 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act among all owners in the area by 2020.
- To integrate the veldfire management strategy into the disaster management plan of the Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Tlokwe City Council strategy plan
- To achieve agreed minimum standards of the fire prevention and readiness among members by 2020.
- To have standard integrated veldfire management plans implemented by all members on their properties by 2020.
- To institute a system of records and reporting that will provide adequate information on veldfires and support the delivery of prescribed reports.
- Achieve a public that is better educated about veldfire management;
- Propagation concerning the Potchefstroom FPA, its mission, aims and objectives, constitution, general rules, management and finances within its boundaries;
- The support from the executive management including the fire protection officer towards members in order to accomplish objectives.
- All objectives as laid down in the constitution of the Potchefstroom FPA

4.2. **Hazards identified:**

TABLE 2: Lists and describes the main fire hazards in the area of the Potchefstroom FPA

Hazard	Description
Natural veldfires: Extreme conditions -	In extreme conditions, i.e. during dry, windy conditions, especially with very strong westerly wind. Also, fauna is likely to suffer significantly given the rate and

Updated 12 February 2020

Average conditions -	intensity of burns. The greatest negative impact would be unwanted burns (destruction of grazing).
Towns, Villages & Townships:	The abundance of flammable fuels (dense grass, garden rubbish, fuel depots etc.) makes the towns, townships and villages a hazard to itself and others.
Informal settlements:	These settlements are a hazard to themselves, especially because of crowded housing and poor access together with widespread use of coal stoves and naked flames for cooking and heating; under current conditions it also is a hazard to the surrounding veld. Barolong community is a huge risk.

TABLE 3: List of social assets within the area of the Potchefstroom FPA with an analysis of the veldfire risk for each and the levels of risk assessed

Asset Group	Hazard	Likelihood		Consequence		Risk Rating
		Assessment	Rating	Assessment	Rating	
Towns Townships	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions), and the town itself	The towns are reasonably well protected, with effective management plans in place. This reduces the likelihood of impacts on the towns	Unlikely	Loss of property is significant; moderate risk of injury during fire fighting	Moderate	Medium
Informal Settlements	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions), and the settlements itself	Similar to above. However, shacks are more fire prone and there are few roads; limited water access is difficult	Most likely	Loss of property is significant; High risk of injury during fire fighting	Moderate	High
Farmsteads and resorts	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions)	Although the extreme conditions occur regularly the homesteads are moderately protected	Likely	Possibility of the loss of houses and injury during fire fighting	Moderate	High
Heritage Sites	Natural veldfires	Sites are generally quite exposed and are likely to be burnt quite often but are protected	Likely	Huge losses	Moderate	High

4.3. Assets description:

4.3.1. SOCIAL ASSETS:

Table 3 lists social assets i.e. assets relevant to people's well being. These include cultural and heritage assets.

4.3.2. ECONOMIC ASSETS:

Table 4 lists assets with economic value.

4.3.3. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS:

Table 5 lists assets with environmental value. These include features such as landscapes, catchments, and natural communities.

4.4. Veldfire risks within the Gatsrant area:

Table 6 lists the risks to assets within the area that arise from the hazards faced.

TABLE 4: List of economic assets within the area of the Potchefstroom FPA with an analysis of the veldfire risk of each and the levels of risk assessed.

Asset Group	Hazard	Likelihood		Consequence		Risk Rating
		Assessment	Rating	Assessment	Rating	
Stock Farms	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions)	Most farms have fire protection plans. Occurs every 5 th year	Likely	Substantial loss of e.g. stock losses, property losses, vehicle/ Implements	Moderate	High
	Natural veldfires (average conditions)	Occur annually on many stock farms	Almost certain	No significant losses of stock, however recent losses did occur	Insignificant	High
Recreational lodges & game reserves	Natural veldfires (extremes)	Lodges are well protected and generally removed from the path of the hazards. Game reserves is very secured	Possible	Effective fire fighting programs in place, so risk of property loss is reasonable; Risk of injury high	Moderate	High
Properties of emergent farmers	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions)	Homesteads and farms reasonably protected	Possible	Risk of life and total loss of property is high	Major	High

TABLE 5: List of environmental assets within the area of the Potchefstroom FPA with an analysis of the veldfire risk for each and the levels of risk assessed.

Asset Group	Hazard	Likelihood		Consequence		Risk Rating
		Assessment	Rating	Assessment	Rating	
Natural Westrand type veld and soil and graze fields	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions)	Will occur	Almost certain	Soil erosion occurs as a result of veldfires and drought, followed by severe thundershowers	Moderate	High
	Natural	Occur about	Almost certain	Fires threaten	Moderate	High

Updated 12 February 2020

Specific fire vulnerable species: game	veldfires (extreme and average conditions)	every 2-4 years		game because of high fences preventing movement		
---	--	-----------------	--	---	--	--

TABLE 6: List of management priorities in the Potchefstroom FPA.

Risk class	Priority	Asset	Hazards
High	1	Informal settlements	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions) and the settlements itself
High	1	Farmsteads and Resorts	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions)
High	1	Stock Farms	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions)
High	1	Recreational Lodges & Game Reserves	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions)
High	1	Properties of emergent farmers	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions)
Medium	2	Towns	Natural veldfires (extreme conditions) and the town itself
Medium	2	Stock Farms	Natural veldfires (average conditions)
Low	3	Heritage Sites	Natural veldfires

4.5. Resources for veldfire management

4.5.1. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY:

The Potchefstroom FPA has been formed through the combination of the skills and experience of owners who have a history of collaboration. This provides the FPA with a strength that is supported by proven management and administrative experience, with simple but effective office systems. The FPA has the support of a committed Executive and technical and logistical support from the Tlokwe Fire service.

4.5.2. PERSONNEL:

The FPA has at its disposal:

- An experienced FPA
- About 90% of the managers of land within its membership have some training in veldfire incident management
- About 90% of owners have trained field hands, average three per owner

4.5.3. EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES:

Currently, Potchefstroom FPA can rely on the following equipment:

- 25 Rucksack pumps (20 Litre each)
- 125 skid-units (500 Litre each) Official equipment
- 250 skid-units mostly private owned
- Local dams Potchefstroom, Boskop, Klipdrif, Klerkskraal
- Working on Fire EPWP program. 3 teams as well as aerial resources.

4.5.4. COMMUNICATIONS:

The members of the FPA rely on the following communications systems:

- Standard land-line telephones
- Cell phones, for which there is complete coverage
- The farmers` radio-network

4.5.5. SUPPORT FROM UMBRELLA ASSOCIATION:

The Potchefstroom FPA is a member of the NWUFPA and receive support thereof

4.5.6. ASSESSMENT OF THE ADEQUACY OF RESOURCES AND THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT:

Members is fairly well equipped.

Communications are inadequate and the FPA needs to acquire more mobile radios for communication with other parties and for use within the FPA during a veldfire.

Non members constitute a hazard since they do not comply with standards for equipment and personnel: enforcement of minimum standards by the authorities and recruitment of all owners as members of the FPA must enjoy priority.

Members need training in veldfire incident management.

Members have agreed that it is vital within the period of this business plan to achieve the necessary minimum standards, as set out in section 6 below.

4.6. Veldfire risk management strategies

4.6.1. VELDFIRE RISK MANGEMENT OPTIONS:

The FPA has followed the standard guide on veldfires risk management options.

Table 7 contains the assignment of options to risks.

(Note that in real bases options would be assigned to high risks as well as extreme risks.)

4.6.2. RISK MANGEMENT STRATEGIES:

4.6.2.1. General Strategies

4.6.2.1.1. Education and awareness

A program of education and awareness will be implemented to reach all Potchefstroom residents and visitors, designated to

- (a) Reduce ignitions
- (b) Achieve maximum compliance with rules and regulations
- (c) Achieve maximum self-protection, including lives and property

This program will be linked to local adult basic education training initiatives to overcome problems of illiteracy.

- 4.6.2.1.2. Improved veldfire management on non-members` properties
The FPA will work with the authorities to promote compliance with the requirements of the Act among non-members. At the same time, by emphasizing the benefits of membership, the FPA will recruit new members.

4.6.2.2. Integrated Veldfire Management Plans

The FPA will develop standards of integrated veldfire management plans for the different requirements of the kinds of land use in its area, to be agreed between members, and differentiate according to risk levels. Owners will be required to implement these plans and execute annual plans of operations for their implementation.

The plans will incorporate both fire protection and the use of prescribed burning, will conform with and in part define the requirements of local disaster management plans, and will include the following:

- Wildfire prevention plans
- Wildfire preparedness plans including:
 - * specifications for levels of preparedness for different fire danger ratings including stand-by of aerial response resources
- Fire suppression plans, including:
 - * definition of conditions determining levels of response under different fire FDI ratings
 - * rules for escalating the incident command
- Recovery plans
- Compliance with Chapters 4 and 5 of the Act
- Compliance with the rules of the FPA

These plans will be designated to protect each different kind of asset in the area.

4.6.2.3. Specific asset protection strategies

- 4.6.2.3.1 Informal Settlements
The protection of informal settlements is especially important to the Potchefstroom FPA and the local fire service take a leading role in this. The EPWP program “Working on Fire” assists a lot in this regard with fire awareness programs in these communities.

TABLE 7: Details of risk management strategies for extreme risks

No extreme risks exist as present

5. OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE VELD FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

5.1. Fire Prevention Plan

5.1.1. The roads Department will be requested by the FPO to make firebreaks next to the four major roads in the area when the need arises, because they've got the manpower and equipment to do it. These firebreaks have to be started within 30 days of written notice by the FPO. The landowners must be notified as well. Sanral is also part hereof.

5.1.2. A ban on open fires or firebreaks will be announced by the FPO when necessary. This ban will be during winter if required and might be announced between 1 June and 31 October.

5.1.3. All members must keep their equipment in good condition at all times.

5.2. Fire Preparedness Plan

Members must be prepared at all times.

5.3. Fire Suppression and Recovery Plan

The members of the sector in which a fire starts, and the local Fire Brigade, must be notified first. If the fire can't be controlled by members, notify the Fire Protection Officer, who will then notify the leaders of the other sectors. The landowners on which the fire occurred must guard the fire once it has been extinguished. The SMS system can be utilized in order to expedite alarm making.

5.4. Plan for co-ordination with neighbouring FPA's

There is excellent communication between the neighbouring FPA's that includes

- Gatsrand FPA
- Ventersdorp FPA
- Klerksdorp FPA

5.5. Plan for support from the Umbrella FPA

The assistance of the NWUFPA will be called upon when the need arises.

5.6. Plan for fire investigations, records and reporting

All fires are reported, and records are kept on all of them. Reports are given through to Daff and all necessary role players in need thereof.

5.7. Plan for upgrade of resources

Upgrading of resources is an ongoing process

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW AND THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR THIS PURPOSE

The Fire Protection Officer will present an annual review of the business plan with proposals for amendments, if any, to the Annual General Meeting of the FPA. This annual review will:

- Evaluate progress with respect to achievement of the objectives of the FPA
- Report and analyze changes in membership of the FPA

- Evaluate the incidence and consequence of wildfires and draw conclusions relevant to the veldfire management strategy
- Investigations after major emergencies and disasters
- Evaluate progress with respect to prosecution and rehabilitation of people causing fire through incendiarism or negligence

Once approved by the annual general meeting of the FPA, the Chairperson will submit this document as its annual report to the Minister.

The FPO will maintain the information required for this by promoting reporting by members as well as other parties, such as the local Fire Service, by the use of the DAFF Internet-based Veldfire Information System.

7. THE RULES OF THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

7.1. Chapter 4 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act: Firebreaks

7.1.1. Minimum firebreak requirements

See 5.1.1. and 5.1.2.

7.1.2. Rules regarding arrangements between neighbours

When preparing firebreaks by burning, neighbours must meet the requirements of Section 12 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act. No further requirements are necessary.

7.2. Chapter 5 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act: Fire Fighting

7.2.1. Minimum fire fighting equipment requirements

7.2.1.1. Requirements by type and class of membership

See Table 8

7.2.1.2. Equipment standards

See Table 8

TABLE 8: Minimum requirements for fire fighting equipment to be met by members of the Potchefstroom FPA as well as months to burn or not

Activity	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Des
Slash burning	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Fire breaks	Yes	Yes	SPR	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Crop residue	Yes	Yes	SPR	SPR				Yes
Open fires	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Cane burning	According to the act and at the discretion of FPO & Chairman							

TABLE 9: Different type of vegetation to be burnt under FDI rules

Activity	FDI higher than		
Slash burning	50	Not allowed	Not over weekends
Fire breaks	50	Not allowed	Not over weekends / unless special circumstances
Crop residue / Grazing	50	Not allowed	Not over weekends
Open fires	50	Not allowed	
Charcoal kilns	55	Seal kilns	

TABLE 10: Different types of equipment needed according the Ha of the property

Member Category	Bakkie Sakkie	Fire tender 2500lt	Tractor trailer 2000 lt	Knapsacks	Beaters	Rake hoes / Hoes	Fire lighter	Mobile radios
Land Ha								
1-10				1	2	2		
11-50	1			2	4	4		1
51- 100	1			3	6	6		1
101-1000	2			4	6	6	1	2
1000 - 5000	3	1	1	5	10	6	1	4
5000 – 8000	5	2	1	8	14	8	1	4
8000 -12000	8	3	2	10	20	10	2	6
12000 +	10	4	2	10	20	10	2	6

7.2.2. Minimum personnel requirements

7.2.2.1. Minimum numbers of competent personnel in different job categories

Two Basic Fire Fighting trained members on Bakkie / Skid-unit and one person follow up with grass beater.

7.2.2.2. Minimum fire fighting training requirements

Basic Fire Fighting and first aid to all FPA members and staff that will assist with fire fighting / firebreaks.

7.2.2.3. Minimum safety equipment and protective clothing (recommended)

For any person involved in fire fighting:

- One flameproof overall
- A cotton T-shirt as under layer

Updated 12 February 2020

- One pair ankle-length leather boots
- Pair of fireproof gloves
- Fireproof balaclava
- Eye protection
- Mouthpiece to prevent smoke inhalation

7.3. General rules regarding the use of fire (examples)

Picnic and Campfires: may be lit only in a permanently constructed fireplace surrounded by ground that is clear of all combustible matter for a distance of at least 2 meters, or at a site surrounded by ground that is clear of all combustible matter for a distance of at least 2 meters; may not be left unattended until entirely extinguished.

Smoking: no person may drop or throw down any lighted cigarette, match or anything burning. No person may light or carry a lighted cigarette or match within 15 meters of any stacks of grain, hay, straw or any standing crops, dry grass or crop residue and plantation slash.

Prescribed burning included the burning of firebreaks: owners intending to conduct a prescribed burn or to burn a firebreak must obtain a Burning Permit from the Fire Protection Officer to conduct the burn at any time between 1 June and 31 October. He or she will also require a permit on any day outside this season of moderate or higher fire danger is predicted for that day.

Notify your neighbours and the Fire Protection Officers at least 24 hours before you light any fire and keep an eye on weather conditions. Make sure someone is in attendance for the whole-time fire is lit. Observe all conditions of your Fire Permit.

7.4. Rules governing mutual aid agreement

Memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Potchefstroom FPA and major establishments such as:

- JB Marks Fire services
- Working on Fire
- North West University
- SANDF
- Rhein Denel Munitions
- Agricultural college
- Police Mounted Academy

7.5. Fire Prevention and Preparedness during periods of high fire danger

High Fire Danger – Total Fire Ban (High Yellow 45+ FDI)

When a forecast of a high fire danger rating is broadcast by the SA Weather Services and the forecast is published in the public media according to the requirements of the Act, a total fire ban applies from midnight at the start of the day of high danger, until further notice. During a Total Fire Ban, no fire may be lit in the open.

This includes incinerators, garden-refuse fires, and picnic or braaivleis fires that burn solid fuel, e.g. wood or charcoal.

Gas or electric cookers may be used only:

- On an erf within 20m of the house or dwelling or in an area with FPA approval
- Under the control of an adult
- If the ground within 3m of the barbeque is cleared of all materials that could burn
- There is a continuous supply of water available

7.6. Fire Prevention and Preparedness during periods of low to moderate fire danger:
Fire restriction periods

7.6.1. Definition of periods

The Potchefstroom fire restriction period applies from 1 June to 31 October

7.6.2. Conditions for the issuing of Permits to Burn

See 7.3. above

7.6.3. Special precautions applicable

See 7.3. above

7.6.4. Requirements during seasons of early onset

In any year when the winter drought sets in early, as judged by the level of the Drought Index, the Fire Protection Officer may publish an earlier date for the fire restriction period or extend it.

7.7. Appropriate fire regimes for prescribed burning

No burning is regularly done to natural veld, because there are no advantages and many disadvantages to it in the Potchefstroom area.

7.8. Smoke management and pollution control

Burning of veld adjacent to townships must be done when the wind direction is in the opposite direction as that of the township.

7.9. Catchment protection (protection of soil and water values)

The Moorivier catchment area exists in Potchefstroom under the custodianship of the department of Water affairs. All burning are done under the direct control of the responsible people.

7.10. Enforcement

The following will be the enforcement officers regarding provisions under the Act, by-laws affecting fires and the rules of the FPA as applied within the area of the FPA:

- The Fire Protection Officer (with appropriate delegation of authority in terms of the Fire Brigade Services Act with respect to by-laws)
- The Chief Fire Officers and person to whom powers have been delegated, i.e. Fire Prevention Officers and Traffic Officers
- Appointed Law Enforcement / Peace Officers
- Members of the SAPS

7.10.1. By-laws for non-members

Municipal by-laws in terms of the Fire Brigade Services Act also apply to the areas within declared borders and require homeowners to meet prescribed building standards with regard to fire protection and good housekeeping.

8. LIST OF THE POWERS AND DUTIES WHICH SHOULD BE DELEGATED BY THE MINISTER TO THE FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 5(1) (K) OF THE ACT

In due time substantial powers and duties will be delegated to FPA's and umbrella FPA's