

2011 BURNING PROHIBITIONS
IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT 101 OF 1998
LOWVELD AND ESCARPMENT FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
AS PER REGISTRATION WITH DAFF (NR 871/01/01)

The **Lowveld & Escarpment Fire Protection Association (LEFPA)** hereby declares a period of extraordinary fire hazard and therefore directs:

1. That, within the boundaries of the LEFPA and the Ehlanzeni District, no person shall from **1 June 2011 up to and including 31 October 2011** make a fire in the open air, or, if such a fire has been made, allow it to continue to burn or add fuel thereto, otherwise than –
 - a. fires made within a demarcated picnic or camping area or caravan park, or holiday resorts, but only at places within such an area which have been specifically prepared and maintained for that purpose; provided that such fires are properly extinguished with water and/or sand;
 - b. fires for the preparation of food on residential stands;
 - c. fires made on residential and industrial stands in proclaimed townships;
 - d. fires made for initiation school purposes, but only at places, which have been specially prepared and maintained for that purpose to prevent fires from spreading;
2. That, within the boundaries of LEFPA and the Ehlanzeni District, no person shall from **1 June 2011 up to and including 31 October 2011** destroy by burning slash originating from any timber plantation or self-sown exotic trees
3. That, within the boundaries of LEFPA and the Ehlanzeni District, no person shall from **1 June 2011 up to and including 31 October 2011** destroy by burning residue, cultivated crop fields and veld, clear or maintain a fire belt by burning, or execute block burns;
 - a. **provided that such fires may be made only on days when the Average Fire Danger Index at 14:00 for the fire region, as determined by LEFPA, is less than 55, except on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays and the day before a Public Holiday**
 - i. subject to the directions in terms of regulation 12 of the Regulations promulgated in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983), in consultation with the local interested parties and the implementation of reasonable precautions to ensure that fires do not spread in the area and where applicable,
 - ii. A burning permit must be obtained from LEFPA.
4. **Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA) (Act 43 of 1983)**
Burning of Grassveld can be done under the following recommendations, after a burning permit is obtained from LEFPA:

'Dry Tall Grassveld' – Burn from 15th August to 31st October

- Veld should only be burnt within a period of 2 days after at least 15mm of rain has fallen within 24hrs
- Double width fire belt (20 metres or more) must be prepared around the desired area before the end of July.
- Permit must be obtained from the FPA.
- Acceptable Fire Fighting equipment must be present as per minimum standards and requirements of the Fire Protection Association
- Maximum FDI prediction of 45 or less must be forecast and be the actual when burn is started.
- The FDI for the following day may not exceed 55.

It is further recommended that grazing veld only be burnt on rotation every 3 years

Lowveld & Escarpment Fire Protection Association rules include:

- 1.1 Landowners intending to conduct a harvest residue burn or to burn a firebreak must inform their neighbours.
- 1.2 Permission must be obtained, by means of a burning permit, from the LEFPA office or EVS Detection Centre. Fire breaks and fire fighting resources must also be in place.
- 1.3 Neighbours to co-operate when burning mutual fire breaks.
- 1.4 **No burning** if an FDI of 55 or higher is predicted for that day.
- 1.5 No burning on public holidays or weekends. In extreme cases the LEFPA office may grant permission to burn on these days with a permit
- 1.6 Firebreaks of a minimum width of 10m are to be made around all dwellings and properties.
- 1.7 Where dwellings are in a cluster or close proximity to each other, a firebreak can be made around the perimeter of such an area
- 1.8 Any runaway fires to be reported to neighbours immediately and the EVS Detection Centre (0860 66 3473).
- 1.9 Any planned controlled burns under Eskom power lines to be reported to the EVS Detection Centre and Eskom before such burn.
- 1.10 Every attempt must be made to complete burning of firebreaks by end July.
- 1.11 It is a criminal offence to leave controlled burns unattended before the fire is totally extinguished