



## RULES AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

(Version 7 April 2014)

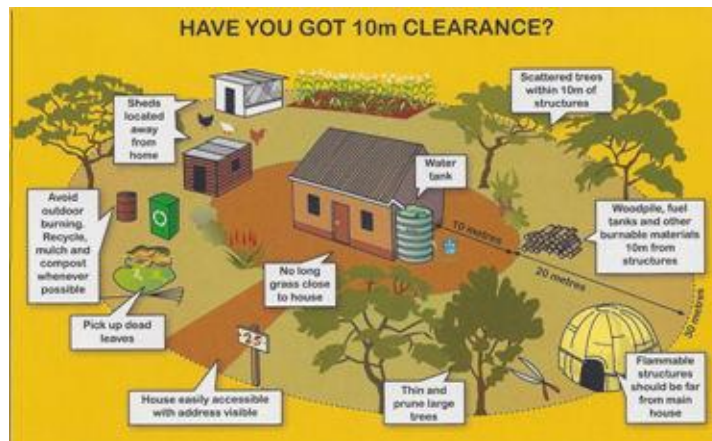
These rules and minimum requirements are to be adhered to by members of the Lowveld & Escarpment Fire Protection Association (LEFPA) and will apply to landowners residing within the LEFPA area of operations. They are applicable in terms of the National Veld & Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998, chapters 4 & 5, where applicable. LEFPA is registered under the National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998, registration number DAFF 871/01

The LEFPA area of operation, covering the Ehlanzeni District Municipality is deemed high risk fire area by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries. Based on historical practice as well as operating norms, LEFPA has adopted the following prohibition and date lines with regard to burning operations within its area.

### CONTACT DETAILS

LEFPA COORDINATION CENTRE	
<b>EMERGENCY NUMBERS</b>	
<b>NELSPRUIT DISPATCH CELL</b>	<b>079 879 0808</b>
<b>NELSPRUIT DISPATCH HOT LINE</b>	<b>072 619 4180/072 619 4181</b>
<b>Graskop Dispatch Centre</b>	<b>013 767 1541/013 767 1370</b>
LEFPA Manager – Andre Scheepers	083 310 7252      manager@lefpa.co.za
LEFPA Administrator – Corné Martyn	082 566 2728      admin@lefpa.co.za
LEFPA Nelspruit Base Manager – Vacant	
LEFPA Boven Base Manager -	082 724 2805      bovenbase@lefpa.co.za
LEFPA Senior Permit Officer	082 388 2874      permit1@lefpa.co.za
LEFPA Junior Permit Officer	071 337 3236      permit2@lefpa.co.za
LEFPA Share call number	0860 66 3473
LEFPA Office PO Box 9333      Bester Street Sonpark      AFGRI Farm City Nelspruit      SA Golden Leaf Building 1206      Nelspruit 1206      1200	013 752 6419      www.lefpa.co.za
EVS Detection Centre Nelspruit	013 752 4486
EVS Detection Centre Sabie	013 764 4900
Provincial Coordinator - Jackie van Wyk	083 274 0990

### PROTECTING YOUR PROPERTY



**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LANDOWNERS, NATURE CONSERVATION AREAS, COMMERCIAL FARMERS AND CANE GROWERS**

Property Size ha	Bakkie Sakkie Min 200 litres or Tractor/trailer	Water tanker Min 1000 litres	Water tanker Min 2000 litres	Rake Hoes	Beaters	Knapsacks Min 15 litres	Drip Torch	Cell phone	Hand held radio	Mobile Radio	First Aid Kit	Fire Fighters	Crew Leaders Owner/Fire Boss
Less than 10ha	***				1	1						1	
11 - 25	1*	0	0	1	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	1
26 - 100	1	0	0	2	5	3	0	1	0	1	1	4	1
101 - 500	1	1	0	5	10	4	1	1	1	1	1	9****	1
501 - 1000	1	1	0	10	15	10	1	1	2	1	2	10/20*	1
1001 - 4000	2	0	2	15	20	10	2	1	4	2	2	15/30*	3
4001 – 10 000	2	2	1	20	40	20	3	1	4	2	5	25/40*	3/4*
10 000 +	3	3	2	20	40	20	3	1	5	2	5	30/50*	4/5*
Timber processors/ sawmiller, charcoal plants	1	1	0	4	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	4/10*	1/2*
Contractors	1**	1	0	5	5	5	2	1	2	1	1	10	1
Cane growers 1 – 25ha	1	0	0	1	4	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	1
Cane growers 26 – 100ha	1	0	0	2	5	2	0	1	0	1	1	4	1

\*ACCESS TO RESOURCES WITHIN 30 MINUTES

\*\* Refer to Contractors Protocol

\*\*\* Minimum 30m hose pipe

\*\*\*\* it is recommended that you have a written agreement with the neighbour if you do not have enough equipment or people according to the minimum rules, that collectively meet the minimum requirements.

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FORESTRY FIRE FIGHTING AND STAFFING**

Property Size ha	Bakkie Sakkie Min 200 litres	Water Tanker Min 2000 litres	Water Tanker Min 4000 litres	Rake Hoes	Beaters	Knapsacks Min 15 litres	Drip Torch	Cell phone	Handheld radio	Mobile radio	First aid kit	Fire Fighters	Crew Leaders, landowners or Fire Boss	Access to Aerial Resources
0 - 500	1	1	0	10	10	10	2	2	2	1	1	10/20*	1	Recommended aerial support
501 - 1000	2	2	1	20	20	15	2	2	3	1	2	15/30*	2	Aerial support
1001 – 5000	2	2	1	30	40	20	3	2	4	2	2	25/50*	3	Aerial support
5001 +	3	2	2	60	80	40	4	4	6	4	4	40/100*	3/3*	Aerial support

\*ACCESS TO RESOURCES WITHIN 30 MINUTES

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING**

	Leather Boots (no steel tips)	Leather gloves	Balaclavas	Fire fighter helmet	T-shirts	100% cotton overall
Landowners	yes	yes	****	****	****	yes
Commercial farmers	yes	yes	****	****	yes	yes
Nature conservation areas	yes	yes	****	****	yes	yes
Cane growers	yes	yes	****	****	yes	yes
Timber processors / sawmillers & charcoal plants	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Fire contractors	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Forestry	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
ESKOM contractors	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Yes

\*\*\*\* Recommended

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINED PERSONNEL PER CATEGORY**

	<b>Basic fire fighting</b>	<b>Crew leader / Landowner</b>	<b>Prototeams</b>	<b>Fire Boss/ Landowner</b>	<b>Incident Commander</b>
<b>Landowners</b>	yes	yes		****	
<b>Commercial farmers</b>	yes	yes		yes	****
<b>Nature conservation areas</b>	yes	yes		yes	****
<b>Cane growers</b>	yes	yes		****	
<b>Timber processors, sawmillers and charcoal plants</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	
<b>Fire contractors</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	****
<b>Forestry</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>ESKOM contractors</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes	ESKOM – ORHVS 1/2/3

\*\*\*\* Recommended

**MINIMUM FIRE FIGHTER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS**

**Basic Fire Fighter**

All members personnel involved in fighting fires are to have completed a Basic fire fighters course.

**Initial attack teams**

All members must have completed a Basic fire fighters course.

All members are to have passed a minimum physical fitness test.

All supervisors are to have completed a Crew Leaders/Boss course.

The courses must be through an accredited institution and consist of the following modules:

<b>Basic Fire Fighter course contents:</b>	<b>Crew Leaders/Boss</b>
<p><b>Subjects /modules</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998</li> <li>2. Fire Danger Rating</li> <li>3. Understanding Fire</li> <li>4. Types of Fire</li> <li>5. Duties and Organization at fires</li> <li>6. Safety at Fires</li> <li>7. Survival at Fires</li> <li>8. The use of hand tools for Fire Fighting</li> <li>9. Mopping up</li> <li>10. Aerial Fire Fighting Operations</li> </ol>	<p>The candidate must have completed the Basic Fire Fighters Course.</p> <p>The Crew leader's course must consist of the following subjects:</p> <p><b>Subjects/modules</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire terminology</li> <li>• The Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998</li> <li>• Fire Behaviour</li> <li>• Fire Danger Rating</li> <li>• Organization at Fires</li> <li>• Initial Attack Strategies and tactics</li> <li>• Fire extinguishing methods</li> <li>• Aerial Fire Fighting Methods</li> </ul>

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREBREAKS**

	<b>10 m Fire breaks</b>	<b>Internal Fire breaks</b>	<b>20 m firebreaks</b>	<b>Strategic breaks</b>
<b>Less than 10ha</b>	Refer to page 1			
<b>Landowners</b>	yes	****		
<b>Commercial farmers</b>	yes	yes	****	
<b>Nature conservation areas</b>	yes	****	****	****
<b>Cane growers</b>	yes	****		
<b>Timber processors, sawmillers and charcoal plant)</b>			yes	****
<b>Fire contractors</b>				
<b>Forestry</b>	yes	yes	yes	yes
<b>ESKOM power lines</b>	Refer to page 5			

\*\*\*\* Recommended

### **Boundary breaks with neighbours**

- All members are to prepare fire breaks where there is a risk of veld fires on his or her side of the common boundary with the adjoining land; note that this refers to neighbours and not to boundaries within the owners land. The firebreak need not follow the common boundary if the neighbour agrees to locate it elsewhere. This offers the flexibility needed to adjust for problems such as terrain. **A recommended 10 m on each side of the boundary.**
- Dimensions of firebreak to be agreed between the neighbours.
- Condition: The break must be reasonably free of all inflammable material and must not cause erosion.
- The break must be made annually, where possible these breaks must consist of two 10m breaks which can be alternated annually
- This will allow the break to be burnt earlier as flammable material would have built up in the alternate break that was not burnt the previous year.
- This practice will allow the area burned to rest for a year between burns.
- It is recommended that a firebreak agreement be signed by neighbours, obtainable from LEFPA.

### **Member's duties when preparing firebreaks**

- The following are the steps to be taken by members when they intend to burn firebreaks:
- The owner intending to burn must consult with the neighbour to find a suitable date for both. If the member cannot obtain agreement then he or she may simply give 14 days' written notice of intention to burn.
- The act requires the neighbour to burn his or her firebreak on the same day as agreed or notified, to be present or have an agent present, and have sufficient fire fighters available to prevent the spread of the fire.
- No burning operations will be allowed between the 1 June and 31 October without a permit issued by LEFPA.
- No burning of firebreaks if the actual FDI exceeds 55 in the yellow.
- Burning on Saturdays, Sundays or Public holidays only permitted as per permit guidelines.
- The member must comply with LEFPA's Rules and Minimum Requirements before the burning of firebreaks commences.
- The EVS Detection Centre/LEFPA should be notified before burning operations commence on the day of burning.
- The EVS Detection Centre/LEFPA should be notified of any uncontrolled spread at the site where firebreak is being burnt.
- The EVS Detection Centre/LEFPA should be notified of completion of the burning operations.

### **Strategic breaks**

- Recommended width: 100 metres
- Condition: Clean of all flammable soft fuels [grasses]
- Rotation: Annually

## **BURNING OF ANY HARVEST RESIDUE**

### **Regulations for burning of Harvest residue from 1 November till 31 May of each year:**

- Rain in the area should be more that 75 mm in total for the past month
- Rain should be more than 25 mm within the last 5 days
- 5 day forecast should not exceed 55 Yellow
- Permits will only be issued on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for harvest residue burning
- Slash burning recommended for Gum compartments (extra precaution for Pine compartments is recommended)

### **Pre-burning procedures:**

- Verify the fire danger index (FDI) for the day and the forecast for the next 48 hours. One must check the local FDI. Consider labour availability over weekends and try to avoid burning before a pay weekend. When using a contractor it remains the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that staff, their training, protective clothing and equipment on site comply with the minimum LEFPA standards. No burning of harvest residue after 31 May of each year

### **Post-burning procedures:**

- Mopping up: The entire fire line must be adequately contained. All smouldering embers must be extinguished with water.
- A minimum 1.5 m fire line must be created along the entire perimeter of the burn.
- Harvest residue burns require patrol if the FDI forecast is in the orange or red. A minimum of 2 fire fighters with knapsacks and at least 40 litres of water per unit must be maintained at the site for 24 hours after the burn. Each fire fighter must also have a fire beater.
- In the case of the area burned consisting of slash and heavy fuels the team must be increased to 4 persons with equipment and a method of communication with the ops room and strike team.
- The burned area must be visited twice a day by the fire team.
- This presence must be in place for a minimum of 48 hours, or the duration of the high fire index

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE PREVENTION FOR TIMBER PROCESSORS, SAWMILLERS AND CHARCOAL PLANTS**

**Burning of waste**

- Burning of waste must take place with an approved incinerator.

**Minimum Requirements**

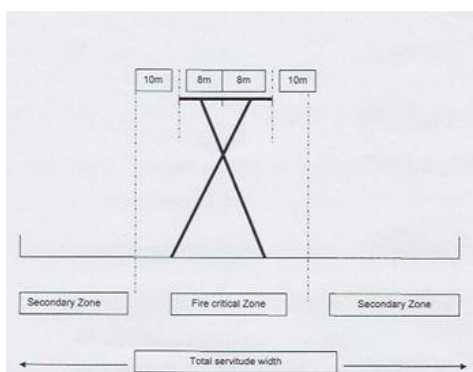
- Firebreaks around timber stacks – as per local circumstances per sawmill, minimum of 20m
- Access to water and pressure pumps
- Mobile water of minimum 1000 litres, must be available at all times (Bakkie Sakkie or water cart)
- Minimum water capacity of 20 000 litre tank with 2-3 fire taps and sufficient hoses that can reach all corners
- Lay flat hoses – long enough to comply with above
- 3 nozzles – minimum
- Approved water wetting agents
- If FDI reaches orange, charcoal ovens should shut down

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIRE PREVENTION UNDER ESKOM POWER LINES (ESKOM ref: TGL 41-334)**

**ESKOM TABLE SHOWING THE COMMON SERVITUDE WIDTHS FOR EACH VOLTAGE CATEGORY**

Voltage Lines	Servitude total width	Ground clearance from centre poles on both sides	Safe distance to trees outside servitude width
132kV	31/36m	6.3m	3.8m
220kV	47m	6.7m	4.2m
275kV	50m	7.2m	6 m
400kV	55 – 65m	8.1m	10 m
533kV DC	30m	8.6m	6.1m
765kV	80m	10.4m	8.5m

**TYPICAL CROSS SECTION OF POWERLINE**



**PROTOCOLS**

**GUIDELINES FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT UNDER ESKOM POWER LINES (ESKOM ref: TGL 41-334)**

The interaction of vegetation and power lines is complex. The main reasons for managing the vegetation under power lines are:

- Ensuring safe clearances under and around power lines
- Ensuring adequate access for inspection, maintenance and repair activities
- Reduction of fuels for fires under power lines that causes flashovers

Also take into consideration the requirements of the land owner. Prior to carrying out vegetation management, first determine the following:

- Is the plant breaching safe clearance?
- Does the plant prevent access to the line?
- Will the plant provide sufficient fuel during a fire to cause a flashover?

### **Fire critical zones in savannah**

Fire critical zone for flashovers resulting from fires in densifiers, happens within 5 m from the vertical below the conductor, predominantly in the mid span area. These values are highly influenced by the atmospheric conditions at the time of the fire.

Based on the results of the measurements taken at a flash site after a fire, the area of the servitude within 5m from the outside conductors should be considered as critical for clearing any densifiers or any other plants that pose a fire risk. As atmospheric conditions have a highly variable effect on fires 10 m is regarded as a practical rule of thumb

Atmospheric conditions, during which flashovers become very likely, have been determined as follows:

- Ambient air temperature greater than 20°C
- Relative humidity less than 20%
- Wind speed greater than 20 km/h

### **Fuel management in the servitude**

Not all plants in the servitude pose a fire risk. The excessive removal of plants not only leads to a risk of erosion in certain soils and generates large quantities of unwanted plant material, but will also have an impact on the species of grass that will grow in the servitude in this newly modified habitat

### **Disposing of cut material**

The disposing of large quantities of cut material generates its own problem. As a result of the fire risk that the cut materials generate, selective cutting procedure is proposed. This should adequately reduce fire risk without generating an unnecessarily large quantity of cut material that has to be disposed of.

The FDI must be obtained and burns must be carried out by people with the correct training and equipment appropriate for the task. Cognisance should be taken of the possibility of soil sterilisation and consequential plant succession during these burns. As a general rule, landowners must report all burns to Eskom so that the necessary arrangements can be made to safeguard the lines.

### **ESKOM MONTRACO LINE (Arnot-Maputo line)**

For any burning below the power line request authorization and coordination from LEFPA manager.

## **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSERVATION AREAS AND HIGH INTENSITY BURNS**

### **PRE-PLANNING AS PER WORKING ON FIRE BEST OPERATING PRACTICES**

- Resources should be adequate to cope with any eventuality which may arise as a result of the application of fire under Orange FDI conditions.
- Any burning activity on any given area should be applied with due regard to the description of the block / management area taking physical factors such as topography, position of roads and existing firebreaks / trace lines into account. These factors should also take into account fuel load as well as the age of the fuel load which obviously in turn would dictate the intensity of the fire. Weather conditions must also be taken into account as they also influence fire intensity.
- Veld type should also be taken into account with regard to the objectives for the burn.
- Point ignition burning or patch mosaic burning should also be considered as an option. However the question of applying fire under extreme FDI conditions will in certain instances be relevant here as well. 'Extreme' implies High FDI conditions.
- Season is an important factor as well as whether to burn in the dry season or after the first rains. Here again the management objectives and veld type will to a large extent govern when fire is applied.
- A matrix of blocks or management areas should be compiled for planning, monitoring, record keeping and control purposes
- No burning shall take place without the necessary LEFPA permit.
- All neighbours must be informed of the intention to burn as laid down.
- There should also be agreement between neighbours on the width and type of fire-break, i.e. burnt or graded, and its condition, i.e. effectiveness as a fire-break.
- Consult: "Fire Fighting on Nature Reserves, Potential danger Document V2 Sep 2011" before operating in Conservation Areas. This document is available on the LEFPA website under the Safety tab.

## **GUIDELINES FOR CANE GROWERS, AS PER MPUMALANGA CANE GROWERS RECOMENDATION - DOC/SUB2010**

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE BURNING PROTOCOL**

- To make sure that the burning of cane is done in a safe and legitimate manner
- To avoid smut deposits in sensitive residential areas or industrial complexes and other sensitive areas
- To prevent traffic accidents caused by smoke hazards moving across district and national roads from controlled or accidental fires
- To prevent "arcing" between power lines and the ground below which causes surges and cuts to industrial and domestic power
- To confine cane burning immediately adjacent to sensitive areas when prevailing winds are favourable to minimize smuts fallout on sensitive areas

## PRACTICE AND PROCEDURES

- Landowners intending to conduct a prescribed burn or to burn a firebreak must inform their neighbours
- Any runaway fires to be reported to the neighbours and the FPA immediately.
- Any planned controlled burns under Eskom power lines to be reported to the FPA operation centre or Eskom before such burn
- Do not leave controlled burns unattended until the fire is totally extinguished
- Before controlled burns take place, a permit must be obtained from the LEFPA office

## MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTRACTORS

### Burning Contractors

#### The contractor must:

- Be a registered business within the field of Fire Management
- Minimum qualifications for a contractor: Fire Boss 1 or IC Type 5
- Crew leader qualifications: Crew leader Type 1 or 2
- These qualifications must be certified
- The rest of the team must be qualified in Basic fire fighting
- Proof of Public Liability Insurance to the value of R20 million is recommended
- 4 x 4 Bakkie with bakkie sakkie not less than 500 litres is recommended
- 1 x High lift jack
- 1 x DCP 2.5kg fire extinguisher
- 1 x Handheld FDI weather kit
- Emergency contact detail list for the appropriate area

### Requirements for Grass Cutting Contractors

#### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTORS ON ROAD RESERVES

Brush cutter operators	Bakkie Sakkie Min 200 litres	PPE for job at hand	Basic fire fighting training	Fire beater	Knapsack Min 15 litres	DCP - fire extinguisher min 2.5kg	25l water containers	Emergency contact list	Emergency kit, cell phone and Supervisor	Basic tool kit	FDI - actuals plus forecast for relevant day	Relevant signage	Public liability Insurance
Team of 5 people		All	All	5	1	1	1	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes
Team of 10 people	1*	All	All	10	2	2	2	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Access to reserves within 5km radius

Lawn Mowers or Grass slashers	Bakkie Sakkie Min 200 litres or fire tender	PPE for job at hand	Basic fire fighting training	Fire beater	Knapsack Min 15 litres	DCP - fire extinguisher min 2.5kg	5l water containers	Emergency contact list	Emergency kit, cell phone and Supervisor	Basic tool kit	FDI – actuals plus forecast for relevant day	Relevant signage	Public liability Insurance
Unit	*For every 5 units	All	All	1	1	1	1	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*Access to reserves within 5km radius

BURNING PERMIT PROTOCOL

Criterion	Types of Burn or Fuel					
	Land Management		Firebreaks	Harvest Debris  No burning from  1st Jun - 31st Oct	Cane	Waste
	Conservation / CARA	High Intensity				
Locality	For local forecast (Currently, for LEFPA, default is Regional forecast)	For local forecast (Currently, for LEFPA, default is Regional forecast)	For local forecast (Currently, for LEFPA, default is Regional forecast)	For local forecast (Currently, for LEFPA, default is Regional forecast)	For local forecast (Currently, for LEFPA, default is Regional forecast)	For local forecast (Currently, for LEFPA, default is Regional forecast)
FDI 14:00 Forecast	55	70	55	55	55	45
Wind Speed 14:00 - km/hr - Average	15	20	15	15	20	15
Fuels	Knee, waist height or more?	> 4 tonnes/ha	N/A	Light, medium or heavy?	N/A	What type?
Age of fuel	1, 2 or more years?	N/A	1, 2 or more years?	N/A	N/A	N/A
Resources	As per FPA rules	Specialised, as per FPA rules	As per FPA rules	As per FPA rules	As per FPA rules	As per FPA rules
Defensible space	N/A	> 50 metres	N/A	N/A	2 metres	2 metres
Neighbours	Phone (Unless otherwise legislated by Local Municipality By-laws)	Written and phone (Unless otherwise legislated by Local Municipality By-laws)	Written and phone (Unless otherwise legislated by Local Municipality By-laws)	Phone (Unless otherwise legislated by Local Municipality By-laws)	Phone (Unless otherwise legislated by Local Municipality By-laws)	Phone (Unless otherwise legislated by Local Municipality By-laws)
Monday	Permit can be issued	SPR	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued
Tuesday	Permit can be issued	SPR	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued
Wednesday	Permit can be issued	SPR	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued
Thursday	Permit can be issued	SPR	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued
Friday	Permit can be issued	SPR	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued
Saturday	SPR	SPR	SPR	SPR	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued
Sunday	SPR	SPR	SPR	SPR	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued
Public Holiday	SPR	SPR	SPR	SPR	Permit can be issued	Permit can be issued
SPR = Special permission and permit required in advance from local FPA						



**NOTES:**

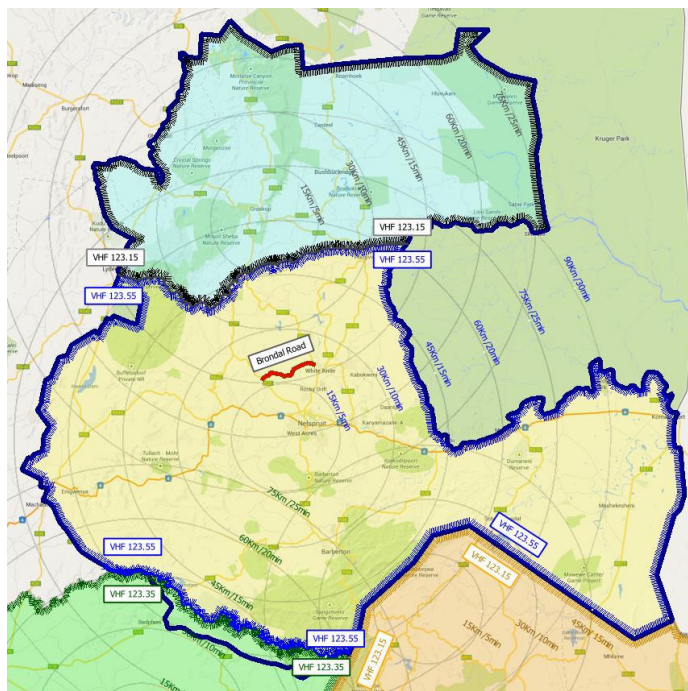
- All FDI's based on Vital Fire Weather Forecast, Regional Average at 14:00 on the current day or the following day (Escarpment, Lowveld and Onderberg)
- Permits are required for LEFPA area/Ehlanzeni District from 1 June – 31 October of each year
- No harvest residue (slash burning) for LEFPA area/Ehlanzeni District from 1 June – 31 October of each year
- Vegetation block burns for grazing purposes, permits granted if the current FDI for 14:00 is less than 46, and if the forecast for the following day is less than 55
- Vegetation block burns for high intensity fires, permits granted on special request
- Permits can be obtained from the LEFPA office.
- Permits will be given on the day of the burn and are only valid for that specific day. Permits cannot be rolled over for the next day or used for other farms or farm owners other than specified on the specific permit.
- Where requires, notify the applicable Ward Chairperson

**DISPATCH, PILOTS, CREW STANDBY AND CALL OUT PROCEDURES**

FDI	<b>BLUE</b> 0 – 20	<b>GREEN</b> 21 - 45	<b>YELLOW</b> 46 - 60	<b>ORANGE</b> 61 - 75	<b>RED</b> 76 – 100
	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Dangerous</b>	<b>Very Dangerous</b>	<b>Extreme</b>
<b>WoF Crews to LEFPA, non fire season, 1 Nov – 31 May</b>	24 person crew at FPA base with transport Mon – Fri 08:00 – 16:00	24 person crew at FPA base with transport Mon – Fri 08:00 – 16:00	24 person crew at FPA base with transport Mon – Fri, 08:00 – 16:00	24 person crew at FPA base with transport Mon – Fri, 08:00 – 16:00	24 person crew at FPA base with transport Mon – Fri, 08:00 – 16:00
<b>WoF crews to LEFPA, Fire season, 1 June – 31 October</b>	Off duty	12 person crew at FPA base with transport, Mon – Sun 08:00 16:00	FDI 55 and above, full 24 person crew on standby at FPA base with transport, FDI 55 and above Mon - Sun 08:00 – 18:00	FDI 70 and above, 12 person crew stay over at FPA base with transport. Mon – Sun 08:00 -08:00	FDI 70 and above, 12 person crew stay over at FPA base with transport. Mon - Sun 08:00 -08:00
<b>Dispatchers Fire season 15 May – 15 November</b>	Off duty	1 dispatcher on duty, Mon - Sun 10:00 – 16:00	1 dispatcher on duty, FDI above 55 second dispatcher if required, 10:00 - 17:00, if required	All dispatchers on duty, 10:00 – 17:00. From first light if requested (request not before 05:00)	All dispatchers on duty, 10:00 – 17:00. From first light (request not before 05:00)
<b>Pilots Fire season 15 May – 15 November</b>	Off duty	FDI 21 – 35, home standby, air born – 30 min FDI 36 – 45, all pilots on duty, air born 5 – 7 min 10:00 – 16:00	All pilots on duty 10:00 – 17:00 if required <b>FDI 55 and above, Activate all airstrips</b>	All pilots on duty from first light if required, air born 3 – 5 min <b>Activate all airstrips</b>	All pilots on duty from first light <b>Activate all airstrips from first light</b>

**NOTES:**

Request ground teams from Nelspruit Dispatch  
Request aerial support from Nelspruit Dispatch or Graskop Dispatch



**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 up to and including 31 October** 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 up to and including 31 October** destroy by burning slash originating from any timber plantation or self-sown exotic trees **and or Alien invasive plants**
3. That, within the boundaries of LEFPA and the Ehlanzeni District, no person shall from **1 June up and including 31 October** 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 15<sup>th</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> October -

**Comply to the High Intensity Burn Protocol**

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

**Lowveld & Escarpment Fire Protection Association rules include:**

1. Landowners intending to conduct a harvest residue burn or to burn a firebreak must inform their neighbours.
2. Permission must be obtained, by means of a burning permit, from the LEFPA office. Fire breaks and fire fighting resources must also be in place.
3. Neighbours to co-operate when burning mutual fire breaks.
4. **No burning** if an FDI of 55 or higher is predicted for that day.
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
6. Firebreaks of a minimum width of 10m are to be made around all dwellings and properties.
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
8. Any runaway fires to be reported to neighbours immediately.
9. Any planned controlled burns under Eskom power lines to be reported to Sonja Liebenberg on 082 857 6607 before such burn.
10. Every attempt must be made to complete burning of firebreaks by end July.
11. It is a criminal offence to leave controlled burns unattended before the fire is totally extinguished

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **MINIMUM SIGNAGE AND EMERGENCY LIGHTING REQUIREMENTS**

To work/burn safely alongside a district or regional road the following are required:

- 2 x 60 km/hour signs are required on either side of the burning operation.
- Road signs according to the South African Road Traffic signs manual must be used.
- These are to be placed at least 200 m and not further than 500 m from the burning operation. These are to be accompanied by a worker who will have a red flag of not less than 1 m x 1 m in size.
- This person will present the red flag at oncoming traffic and have the sign displayed facing the oncoming traffic. This person will move the sign as the burning progresses.
- Reflective vests, etc.
- The following are the steps to be taken by members when they intend to burn fire breaks, using a contractor
  - The owner intending to burn must consult with the neighbour to find a suitable date for both. If the member cannot obtain agreement then he or she may simply give 14 days' written notice of intention to burn.
  - The landowner must obtain a burning permit from LEFPA
  - No burning operations will be allowed between the 1 June and 31 October without a permit issued by LEFPA.
  - No burning of fire breaks if the FDI exceeds 55 in the yellow.
  - No burning on Saturdays and Sundays except under a written burning permit which is signed by all neighbouring land owners.
  - The Road Traffic Act and various Regulations published in terms of that Act rules on the fitment of Warning/Hazard or Emergency lights. The following should be seen as general guidelines:
    - Revolving Red Lights**
      - Generally fitted to the roof of "emergency" vehicles. These are generally accepted as vehicles "structurally modified/constructed" to carry out a particular emergency task i.e. fire trucks and ambulances. Note it has to be a structural design change.
      - The mere fitting of a bakkie-sakkie will not qualify an LDV as an emergency vehicle. The "emergency vehicles" are also registered as such. This registration places certain restrictions on the use of the vehicle. In forestry the fire tenders can be registered as emergency vehicles as does the specially constructed smaller strike units with the tank as part of the structure. In rural areas the traffic authorities are normally accommodating in allowing fire tenders registered as emergency vehicles to also carry passengers in summertime when not doing emergency work.
      - The same goes for the display of a revolving red light on an LDV fitted with a bakkie-sakkie. What is sure to get you in trouble with the Traffic Police is the use of a siren on a non-emergency vehicle.
    - Revolving Orange Lights**
      - Restricted to vehicles carrying out a "service" on a public road, tractors mowing road edges or road construction vehicles.
    - Revolving Blue Lights**
      - Restricted to SAPS and Government Security vehicles on active duty. Combined with a siren on a different tone from emergency vehicles.

## **APPROVED EQUIPMENT**

### **Fire beaters**

Description: Constructed of conveyor belt 400 mm wide x 400 mm long and 7-12 mm thick. The tool is attached to a wooden handle.

### **Knapsack Pump**

Description: A plastic container carried on a fire fighter's back, which holds approximately 15 – 20 litres of water. The water is delivered through a double action hand operated pump.

### **Rake Hoes**

Description: Hoe manufactured of steel 27 cm wide x 23 cm high. The tool will have teeth a minimum of 8 cm long. The tool must be attached to a wooden or steel handle of approximately 2 m.

### **Drag Fork**

Description: Rake, with four long tines bent at 90° to the handle. The tool is attached to a wooden handle. It is suited to pine plantations where there is a deep needle layer.

### **Drip torch fire lighter**

Description: A cylindrical steel, aluminium or plastic container with a 5 litre capacity. The burning fluid is delivered through a pipe onto a wick.

### **Bakkie Sakkie**

Description: A water tank manufactured from fibre glass or plastic containing 200 to 700 litres. The tank will have a water pump driven by a petrol engine. The pump will be an impeller or piston type pump. The unit will have a hose reel with a minimum length of 30 m of rubber hose. The pump will have self-filling [suction] capability.

**Communications**

Each member must have a cell phone available for fire fighting operations; this will enable the member to receive the daily fire danger index forecasts (FDI) through an SMS system on his cell phone. The cell phone will enable the member to communicate directly with the ops room. All members, where applicable, require radio communications between the various fire fighting vehicles and ground teams. These radios should be coordinated where possible on common frequencies.

**Protective Clothing**

- Overalls with a high synthetic content should be avoided as these will melt in the event of close contact with a fire and result in serious injuries to the fire fighter.
- ONLY 100 % cotton, including underwear and socks.
- Plastic boots are not recommended as these will melt when in close contact with fire for prolonged periods.
- Steel tipped safety boots to be avoided as they can get so hot that toes get burned.
- A cotton T-shirt worn as an under garment will assist in keeping the direct heat off the skin.