

ALL FIRED UP



LEFPA REACHES OUT TO LOCAL COMMUNITY



The Mandela Day campaign message is simple: Mr Mandela gave 67 years of his life fighting for the rights of humanity. All that is asked is that everyone gives 67 minutes of their time, whether it is supporting your chosen charity or serving your local community.

Mandela Day is a call to action for individuals – for people everywhere – to take responsibility for changing the world into a better place, one small step at a time, just as Mr Mandela did.



Lefpa believes in giving back to the community and this year decided to focus on protecting the environment and our heritage. Mr Jackson Mabuza, Lefpa base manager and awareness coordinator, explained that they chose ProLife Pet Rescue Centre just outside Nelspruit as their charity project for 2015.

"We take Mandela Day very seriously and have been pro-actively involved in it for many years," he says. Mr Mabuza adds that at Lefpa they believe in Madiba's famous words: "A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination." ProLife Pet Rescue is a rehabilitation and adoption agency for animals in and around Nelspruit. They do not euthanise healthy animals as they believe that all animals deserve a second chance.

ProLife Pet Rescue was founded by Karin Erasmus and some friends. Through their love for animals, ProLife aims to give every abandoned pet a loving home where they will feel comfortable and happy.

"Under the supervision of Mr Goodman Madonsela, supervisor at Lefpa base, we took some men to the centre to clear firebreaks around the property," Mr Mabuza says.

The team (consisting of 12 men) efficiently cleared approximately two hectares surrounding the property by hoeing and creating a fire break right around the rescue centre.

"Lefpa really wants to get involved with reaching out a helping hand to the community," says Mr Mabuza. He added that in 2013 on Mandela Day the Lefpa team created fire breaks for an orphanage for children with HIV and that in 2014 Lefpa gave back to the Elandshoek community. "There was an old woman, Magogo Lakhoza who turned 104. We went to clean the house, planted vegetables and ensured that she had ample firewood as she still uses a groundfire to cook."

Lefpa invites the community to contact them at the office if they want them to get involved with charity projects.



REPORT WILD FIRES
0860 66 3473
MLILO KILLS

MEET THE FACES BEHIND THE VOICES: WHO ARE THE PEOPLE ISSUING YOUR BURNING PERMITS?



Nomcebo Mbutywa

Nomcebo started with Lefpa in April this year but has already crept into her colleagues' hearts with her warm and outgoing personality.

She has a great ambition to become a fire boss one day. "But I will patiently wait for Andre' to retire one day," she jokes.

It is her sense of humour that sometimes gets her through many stressful situations. "The foresters are easy to work with as they understand what the FDI is." She keeps quiet before adding that they often get rude callers. "They want to burn NOW and will insist on a permit. And then they usually insist on speaking to Andre'. But then he tells them the same thing: we can't issue permits as the danger is too high!" She laughs when she recalls an incident when Andre' apparently told a caller that only one man can change the weather and that man is God. Nomcebo, a married mother of two children, used to work for PFM before moving to Lefpa.

Zanele Chibane

Zanele has been working for Lefpa since April 2014 and just loves her job. "It is my job to ensure that farmers and foresters are issued with burning permits."

She explains that there is a very strict protocol to be followed regarding burning permits. "It all depends on the weather and the Fire Danger Index (FDI) for that day." She laughs that not everyone always understands that they can't do anything to change the FDI. "It is what it is for that day." She chuckles and says that her job has given her several humorous moments. "One day a farmer phoned me and asked for a permit, and I asked him from what time to what time will he be burning. He answered that he is already burning! He just wants the permit!"

As an ex-fire fighter herself, Zanele understands the danger of out-of-control fires first-hand. "I was a fire fighter for two years and from there worked at the AVS office and now I am back at Lefpa."

This mother of one says she loves her colleagues at Lefpa. "We are a team and that is the most important!"

Burning Permit Etiquette

Plan your burns:

- Apply for your permit BEFORE ignition. Applications can be made on the day from 06h30.
- Notify your neighbour.
- Be honest with your application information.
- Limit your permit to either: a single area burn for the day, or linked to a number of adjacent compartments in the case of traces or fire breaks over a linear distance. If you change your burn position, let the look-out/EVS operators know.
- React to reports of smoke in the immediate area to your burn.
- On completion of your burn, communicate with the look-out/EVS operator notifying what the situation is; persons on site, mopping-up, etc. Let the look-out/EVS operator know if you are re-starting a burn, or starting another burn on the plantation either on the same permit or another unscheduled burn.
- Fire is the common ENEMY – co-operate and communicate with the permit issuers and fire detection services.
- Incorrect/inaccurate information leads to confusion, wastes their time and could result in missed or late reports. They are there to assist you – get to know them, make them your friend and they will respond accordingly.
- Communicate, communicate, communicate!!!

Permit Requests

Office: 013 752 6419
Cell : 082 388 2874
0860 66 34 73
permit1@lefpa.co.za or
permit2@lefpa.co.za

Permits issued	1229
Days not issued	2
Special Permit	10
FIRES	16

PERMITS 2013 TO 2015

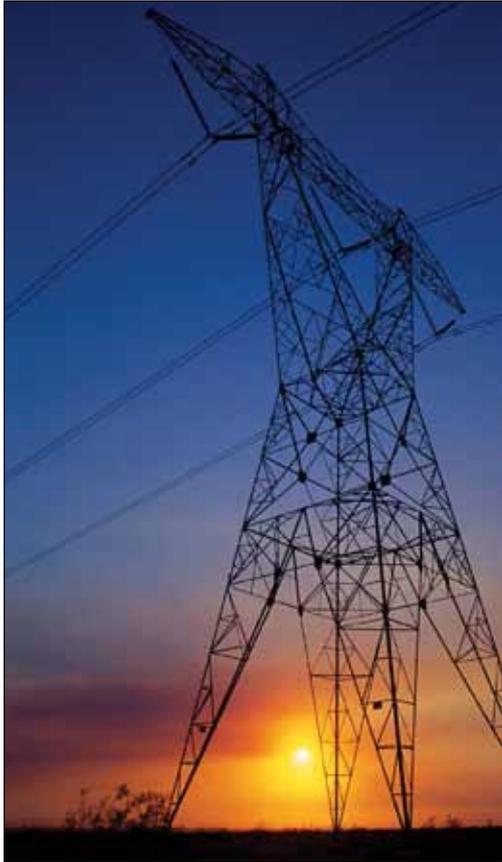
MONTH	2013	2014	2015
January	97	111	119
February	163	129	126
March	203	93	228
April	432	315	254
May	753	609	491
June	942	1041	1125
July	1421	1185	1229
August	204	90	
September	92	34	
October	179	148	
November	152	146	
December	18	95	
TOTAL	4656	3996	3572

July 2015	Lowveld FDI Days	Escarpment FDI Days
BLUE	1	2
GREEN	19	21
YELLOW	9	8
ORANGE	2	0
RED	0	0



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LOWVELD CANE FIRE MANAGEMENT



Through the excellent cooperation of the majority of cane growers in the Lowveld, statistics have shown cane fire related faults could be minimised and even eliminated.

The issuing of LEFPA burn permits on condition that the grower has notified Eskom of the planned cane burn is also a major contributor to the success of less line faults.

Year-to-date no cane fire related line faults were reported compared to 2014 when four cane fires tripped and locked out the Eskom line. This was an isolated incident as a result of a grower who did not follow the correct burn protocol by obtaining permission to burn.

Lowveld staff continually monitors all sugar cane burns to prevent and ensure that no burning takes place under live conditions. Since the beginning of this year 30 sugar cane burns have been monitored under controlled conditions without any incidents.

All landowners are encouraged to continue with the good spirit of cooperation and to continue submitting their applications for any planned burns to Eskom.

Eskom contact person:
Lance Shipalana on
073-209-0977



MPUMALANGA PROVINCE STATE OF DAMS ON 2015-07-27

DAM	RIVER	FSC	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	LAST YEAR
Da Gama Dam	White Waters River	13.6	81.2	82.1	99.5
Driekoppies Dam	Lomati River	251	83.3	84.0	98.0
Inyaka Dam	Marite River	123.7	93.3	94.2	100.1
Kwena Dam	Krokodil River	158.9	92.7	93.7	100.2
Ohrigstad Dam	Ohrigstad River	13.5	40.5	41.2	86.9
Vygeboom Dam	Komati River	77.9	88.9	90.0	100.8
Witklip Dam	Sand River	12.6	72.5	74.0	100.1



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CLIPPED WINGS NO SETBACK FOR LEFPA



Despite the fact that the government-funded forest and veld fire-fighting unit Working on Fire (WoF) had its wings clipped action plans are still in place in case of dangerous fires.

The grounding of the aircraft came at a crucial time with the prevailing dry and windy conditions lending themselves to the outbreak of runaway fires where every possible resource is needed to control the fires.

The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) recently grounded all FFA aircraft and suspended the organisation's air operating certificates, stating that they had failed to comply with legal requirements.

SACAA spokesman Phindiwe Gwebu said in a statement that surveillance conducted on FFA Aviation had revealed certain findings that were regarded as being of a serious nature and failed to comply with the legislative requirements applicable.

Mr Andre' Scheepers, manager at Lefpa, however assured that emergency plans are still in place and that there is no reason to panic as Lefpa still has a handful of aircraft on standby.

"Even though some of FFA's airplanes had been grounded, we are still easily keeping our heads above water," said Scheepers.

"We have arrangements with other service providers and as of 1 August plans were put in place by Lefpa to utilise alternative aerial support during this stressful time."

WoF ground crews will continue to function as normal alongside 10 fire-fighting teams that were sent from the Cape and North-West provinces to assist the Lowveld teams. "This extra precaution was made due to the dangerous nature of this area's fire season," Scheepers confirmed.

FFA spokeswoman Naranda Leeuwner said that the company had held a meeting with authority officials in a bid to get its aircraft back in the air. She described the meeting as "very productive", and said the company was hopeful it would be back in the air soon.

"We just wanted to thank our clients for their understanding and support as FFA values its clients needs and we are doing in our power to ensure there is as little as possible disruptions."

The grounding followed the SACAA's stronger viewpoint regarding aviation nationally. This was due to some aerial accidents in the Cape recently.



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10 TEN GOLDEN RULES TO ADHERE TO

1. Make effective fire breaks on your property borders.

This protects your property and prevents a fire spreading to neighboring properties.

2. Warn neighbours if you plan to burn fire-breaks.

Use a written notice to inform neighbours of your intentions.

3. Plan your fire-breaks programme with your neighbours.

Get your neighbour's approval of your plan of action. Should neighbours find it impossible to come an agreement, provision is made that the local magistrate may act as arbiter. His ruling will then be binding by both land-owners.

4. Insist on your neighbours presence when fire-breaks on boundary belts are being made.

This will ensure that all parties take responsibility for any eventualities. Should a fire occur on a property, and it is suspect of posing a threat to man, animal or property, any person may enter property and apply necessary reasonable measures to prevent the fire from spreading, or to extinguish the fire. These measures may even include setting fire to crops, fire-breaks etc.

5. Ensure that weather conditions are acceptable for burning firebreaks.

You could consider burning fires at night when weather conditions are usually favorable for burning. Check the Fire Danger Rating and regulations for your region.

6. Burn fire-breaks early.

Burning restrictions are enforced in certain regions - ensure that you're aware of these.

7. Don't light fires in the open air if you cannot control it.

Ensure that you have enough help and equipment to cope with all eventualities. Lighting a fire within a road reserve, except in fireplace built for that purpose, is also prohibited in terms of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No 101 of 1998.

8. You are responsible for doing all you can to prevent a fire from spreading to neighboring properties.

If a fire spread it can cause extensive damage and the landowner from where the originates, can be held liable for damages.

9. Don't leave a fire unguarded / unattended before it is properly extinguished.

Unexpected winds can reflare cinders.

10. According to the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No 101 of 1998, carelessness with fires is considered a criminal offence.

AIRCRAFT HOURS FLOWN

NELSRUIT	Spotter Hours	Bomber Hours	Chopper Hours	Aircraft Fires
May	2.28	1.92	2.37	2
June	14.01	30.21	13.62	9
July	7.69	54.69	7.22	11
TOTAL	23.98	86.82	22.21	22

AIRCRAFT HOURS FLOWN

GRASKOP	Spotter Hours	Bomber Hours	Chopper Hours	Aircraft Fires
May	1.68	0	3.13	2
June	8.82	8.33	10.75	7
July	3.04	9.03	2.89	3
TOTAL	13.54	17.36	16.77	11



GENERAL INFO:

Basic firefighting training is available to LEFPA members. Interested parties can contact the LEFPA office.

All membership fees have been invoiced. If you did not receive it contact Corné at the LEFPA office.

FDI weather emails available to LEFPA members. Contact Corné.

CALENDAR AND DATES FOR AUGUST:

6th Aug 09:00	LEFPA General Meeting	LEFPA boardroom
6th Aug 11:00	Mlilo Awareness Meeting	LEFPA boardroom
3rd Sept 09:00	LEFPA General Meeting	LEFPA boardroom
3rd Sept 07:30	EVS Operational Nelspruit Meeting	LEFPA boardroom
8th Oct 09:00	LEFPA General Meeting	LEFPA boardroom



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