

THE LANDOWNER and Fire Protection Associations

As a landowner, you are responsible for the prevention and management of all fires that occur on your land, in terms of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act (NVFFA) of 1998. You will be assisted in complying with these regulations if you and your neighbours form a Fire Protection Association (FPA).

What is an FPA?

FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATIONS (FPA's) are voluntary associations which may be formed by landowners to jointly prevent, predict, manage and extinguish veldfires in terms of the provisions of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act of 1998. Veldfires cause serious damage to property, livelihoods and the environment each year. Co-operation between all major role players can help to prevent veldfires and to manage them effectively.

Registration enables the FPA to appoint a **Fire Protection Officer (FPO)** who:

- 1 acts as the chief executive officer of the FPA;
- 2 takes control of any fire fighting in the FPA's area if it is a threat to life or property;
- 3 inspects FPA members' land to ensure they comply with the NVFFA's provisions; and
- 4 trains members.

Registration

FPA's registered with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) may qualify for assistance and have various powers and duties in terms of the Act.

The Minister must register and issue a certificate to an FPA if it is:

- capable of performing its duties
- representative of the owners in its area

The regulations of the NVFFA sets out the procedure for the formation and registration of FPA's including the appointment and registration of an FPO. Copies of the regulations and forms are available from the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

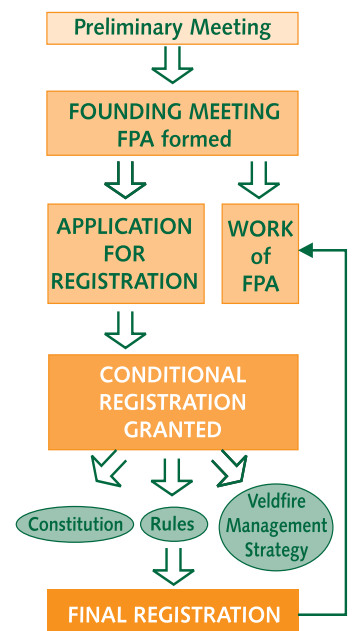
Why form an FPA?

- You can **combine resources** with other landowners to manage fires more effectively.
- As landowners you may **decide** on the way to manage fires to achieve your objectives.

OTHER ADVANTAGES:

- No **presumption of negligence** in civil proceedings due to fire damage
- **Cost saving** by avoiding duplication of services
- FPOs are **empowered to enforce** provisions of the Act and the rules of the FPA
- **Advice and assistance** to members from authorities
- **Improved communication** between members
- Possible **relief from certain prevention measures** eg firebreaks

Forming an FPA



What are the *duties* and *powers* of an FPA?

The FPA, once registered:

- must **develop and apply a veldfire management strategy** which aims to reduce veldfire risk in its area, and in doing so it must co-operate with neighbouring FPA's.
- **can make rules** concerning fire prevention and management which will bind its members, and **the FPO can enforce these rules.**

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- CapeNature's Programme Manager: Fire
Zane Erasmus on (021) 558-4168 or 082 414 6344
- The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry on (021) 950-7100

For more information about FPA's in your area call your nearest CapeNature office:

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|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Boland Mountain | (021) 851-1996 (Somerset-West) |
| Cape Metro | (021) 957-5900 (Bellville) |
| Breederivier | (028) 316-3338 (Onrus) |
| West Coast | (022) 931-2900 (Porterville) |
| Gouritz | (044) 874-2160 (George) |