



LIVESTOCK WELFARE COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Established 1978

FIRE HAZARD – BE PREPARED!

Good summer rains can mean plenty of grazing, pastures and crops, but unfortunately also a high risk of devastating veld fires in the following winter's dry season. Every farmer should therefore be ready to minimise losses.

- Join the local Fire Protection Association to coordinate prevention and reaction activities at the local level.
- Burn and maintain effective fire breaks when the weather is suitable. This is compulsory according to the Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1988. This can save you and other farmers from severe damage.
- Ensure that there is effective, working firefighting equipment ready to be used at short notice.
- Farm staff must be properly trained in effective equipment ready to be used at short notice.
- Staff must be provided with the correct protective clothing for fighting veld fires.
- There must be a designated person to take leadership and responsibility for organising and coordinating the fire-fighting efforts.
- Farmers should monitor weather stations for fire hazard warnings and make preparations accordingly.
- Dry, windy conditions are particularly dangerous for the spreading of veld fires.
- Engage with farm staff, their children and schools to inform them of the dangers of veld fires, and how to avoid starting them.
- If a fire has occurred nearby, move livestock to the safest area as quickly as possible.
- Neighbours and the Fire Protection Association must be informed of the whereabouts and severity of fire.
- If livestock have been damaged by fires, there must be immediate action to assess the damage, categorise the animals and treat those that can be salvaged. The recommendations are supplied on the RPO website (<https://rpo.co.za/>) as well as the LWCC website (<http://lwcc.org.za/>).
- Farmers should consider taking out appropriate insurance for fire damage, which can be very severe and even threaten the continued viability of the farm. This includes liability insurance.
- Prevention should be the first priority, but appropriate action during and after veld fire events must be taken quickly when this happens.

June 2022