

Greater Rustenburg Fire Protection Association

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Burning Firebreaks

⚠️ RULE #1 - Proceed with Caution:

Ironically, burning firebreaks can result in the very runaway fires that you are trying to prevent.

⚠️ Know the law as set out in the National Veld Fire and Forest Act (NVFFA):

- You must **notify your neighbours and the FPA** (Cluster Manager) when you intend to burn firebreaks.
- **No firebreaks may be burnt:**
 - when the FDI is **ORANGE** or **RED**
 - If the fire protection association objects to the proposed burning

⚠️ Know the Fire Danger Index (FDI) for the day & the meaning of the colours.

You can join the WhatsApp group to receive the FDI during Fire Season by sending a whatsapp message to **076 837 7366**

⚠️ No Burning during the period 30th June to 31st October

Special permission, authorised by the Fire Protection Officer (FPO) is required to burn firebreaks, block burns, ashpits or vegetation heaps after 30th June.

⚠️ Consult your Cluster manager:

Your cluster manager is there to advise you – contact him/her if you are unsure. They live in your area and are experienced at watching the weather.

⚠️ Recommendations when burning:

- Use the FDI in conjunction with observed weather at your location: The official FDI might be green or yellow but local conditions could be adverse for burning: high temperatures and low relative humidity (dry air) can cause runaway fires even at moderate wind speeds.
- Reduce the fuel load on the area to be burnt.
- Ensure adequate personnel, PPE and fire fighting equipment is on site
- Burn downhill wherever possible – for every 10° of upward slope a fire doubles its rate of forward spread.
- Burn into the wind wherever possible.
- Burn during the cooler hours of the day, early morning or late afternoon.
- Keep a record of the FDI on the days when you burn – you might need it in the event of a claim.
- Take photos of your prepared firebreaks
- Check with your insurance agent to ensure you have adequate cover. Some insurance companies require you to be a compliant member of an FPA. Check your personal or public liability cover in case your fire results in third party damages. Special rules apply to Agricultural Insurance policies.

⚠️ “Mopping up” after burning a break:

Ensure that the fire is extinguished before leaving the area. Extinguish, or remove to a safe area, any smouldering material which could cause a “flare up” if the wind picks up.