

The rain was plentiful, the vegetation is lush, the winter winds are blowing

THINK FIREBREAKS!

Besides being a legal requirement for every landowner, firebreaks are an essential tool to reduce the risk of loss due to veldfire.



A firebreak does not necessarily stop a fire, especially in severe weather conditions, but it can:

- reduce the intensity of an approaching fire
- provide access for people and vehicles to the fire front
- Provide a safer area from which to fight a fire
- Provide a point from which to start a backburn

Many ways of making a fire break

- Manually clearing the area, removing grass and bushes.
- Slashing with a weed eater or bush cutter.
- Using a chain saw to remove bigger bushes.
- Dragging a heavy tyre behind a tractor.
- Ploughing.
- Hiring a grader or dozer.
- Using a controlled fire.

The NVFFA

"An owner, who is obliged to prepare and maintain a firebreak must ensure that, with due regard to the weather, climate, terrain and vegetation of the area—

- (a) it is wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veldfire from spreading to or from neighbouring land;
- (b) it does not cause soil erosion; and
- (c) it is reasonably free of inflammable material capable of carrying a veldfire across it."

Why restrict yourself to a fire break around your boundary?

Make one around your house, your ashpit and all outdoor cooking and warming areas.

Most veldfires are caused by human activity over which we have no control. The GRFPA urges you to protect yourselves and your property. Preparing FIREBREAKS is an excellent means of basic protection.

