

# APIESRIVIER RURAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

- *From the Community, for the Community* –

(Reg nr: 1743/01)

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## WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF A FPA

### BACKGROUND

Fires are an increasing source of concern every year during the winter months. The fires cause emergency conditions and can result in disasters. But at the same time grass fires happen naturally as part of the normal process in grass veld, plantations, fynbos and also from natural forests. Forest fires are a major problem as it causes risk on life, property and the environment. The ecosystem is damaged each time during a fire. It is important to know how to predict, prevent, control, and manage to douse fires.

### APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA

The **APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA** was established in line with the requirements of **section 3 of the national Act on Veld-and forest fires, Act 101 of 1998**. The said Act provides, inter alia, that owners can form an association with the purpose to prevent, predict, manage and extinguishing fires.

The Minister of Water Affairs & Forestry Department has accepted the Constitution and business plan and gave his approval for the registration of the APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA on 23 March 2006.

### FUNCTIONS OF THE FPA

- The National Act on Veld- & forest fires, 1998 determines, inter alia, that all owners in an area where a FPA is established has the right to join the FPA, provided they undertake to abide by the FPA's constitution and regulations.
- The requirements of Act 101 of 1998 are applicable to all owners, whether they are members of the FPA or not.

#### **The functions of the FPA is briefly as follows:**

- Lay down minimum standards, which all members must adhere to regarding all aspects of fire prevention and readiness for firefighting.
- Regulates controlled fires in order to preserve ecosystems and reduce the danger of fires;
- Regulates any other matter necessary for the FPA to reach its goals;

### PROPERTY OWNERS

- In terms of the requirements of Act 101 of 1998 the concept of "owner" has the same meaning as in the common law and also includes tenants or other persons who are responsible for managing the property in terms of a testamentary document, contract, law or order of a high court. In the case of State land that is not controlled by a person as mentioned above, the Minister concerned, or the person authorized by him or her, shall be deemed the owner of the land.

- According to Act 101 of 1998, if the owner does not belong to a FPA, he is required to provide his own equipment and staff, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to be available on his property if a fire would arise or spread.

## **FIREBREAK** (with reference to National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 – Chapter 4)

- The main purpose of a firebreak is to provide or improve access to relevant terrain. Secondly to provide a point from which light a possible back-burn. Thirdly it is of value in extinguishing a fire and prevent it from spreading.
- In terms of the requirements of Act 101 of 1998, each owner on whose land wildfire can arise or over to whose land it can spread, should make a firebreak, and maintain it on his or her side of the boundary between his or her land and any adjoining land.
- The **term firebreak** refers to **an area that has been cleaned** to prevent fires from spreading from one area to another. Firebreak do not necessarily need to be burned, but can also be scraped, cut or sprayed with herbicide.
- **The firebreak must be free of any combustible material.**
- Members of APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA must have two-point five (2.5 m) meter wide firebreak on all boundaries of their property and maintain them.
- Even if an owner complies with all the requirements of the Act, **he may not burn a firebreak**, if:
  - The FPA objects against the proposed burning; or
  - A warning was published in terms of the said Act, that the fire hazard in the region is considered high; or
  - The conditions are not favourable for the burning of firebreak;

## **PREPARATION OF FIREBREAK** (with reference to National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 – Chapter 4)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If owners intend to <b>burn firebreaks</b>, preparation must be done between <b>1 April and 1 May</b>.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the owners want to burn firebreak between 1 May and 31 October a <b>written application</b> must be submitted to the FPA <b>for a permit</b>.</li></ul> |
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## **AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS DURING THE PREPARATION OF FIREBREAK** (with reference to National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 – Chapter 4)

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Owners who aim to burn firebreak must determine mutually acceptable date(s) with owners of adjacent property and also notify the FPA in writing.</li><li>• If a mutual acceptable date with owners of adjacent property cannot be reached, the owner who wants to burn firebreak must give his neighbours fourteen (14) days written notice of his intention to burn firebreak.</li><li>• Owners of adjoining land can agree that a communal firebreak away from the boundary between their property can be made.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If owners have agreed on a date to burn to burn firebreak, or an owner received fourteen (14) days' notice from his neighbours, that a firebreak will be burned, they must burn their firebreak on the same day on their common borders. All the relevant owners must be present during the burning of the firebreak or have a representative present.</li><li>• There must also be ensured that the relevant fire equipment and persons are present to prevent the fire from spreading if the firebreak is burned.</li></ul> |
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## **GENERAL RULES FOR THE USE OF FIRE**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Picnic and campfires: may only be lit in a permanent fireplace enclosure surrounded by land that does not contain any flammable substances within a distance of two point five (2.5 m) meters, and may not be left unattended until it is completely extinguished</li><li>• <b>NO</b> waste dumps, waste bins or garden waste may be burned.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smoking: No person may drop or throw a burning cigarette, match or any burning object down. No person may light a cigarette or carry a burning cigarette within 15 metres of any mi, grain, hay, straw or any seeded, dry grass or remains of croplands and felled trees or shrubs.</li><li>• <b>NO</b> car tyres, scrap metal, car wrecks, cables etc. may be burned.</li></ul> |
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**Stiff fines or imprisonment or both can be imposed** if owners are convicted of offences of Act 101 of 1998. It is important to note that owners who fail to take reasonable steps to extinguish a fire on his land or to prevent it from spreading or fails to stop it damaging adjacent land or property is guilty of violation of the above-mentioned Act.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND BENEFITS**

- Any owner of land within the boundaries of **APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA** can become a member.
- Only the owner as a member of the FPA has the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- Membership fee is payable on 1 April of each year.
- Members can request a discount on their insurance premium as an FPA member.
- Members have access to and use of **APIESRIVIER RURAL BBV's** equipment.
- Members, families and workers can participate in the fire training offered from time to time.
- Members will be assist by **APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA** to write a motivation and declare a dispute with the municipality about their **fire services** account.
- Members get priority during a fire.
- Members are **not** invoiced for a call-out fee of R750.00 by **APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA**.

## **MEMBERSHIP FEES 1 April - 31 March**

### **The Membership fees are as follows:**

Once off joining fee	-	R50.00
0-50 ha	-	R300.00 per annum
50 ha and more	-	R50.00 per 50 ha or part there of per annum

### **Banking details:**

**Apiesrivier Rural FPA, ABSA Pretoria North,  
Account number 406 5739 353  
Reference: Surname & Plot Nr.**

## **GENERAL INFO**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA management is not responsible to extinguish fires, but can coordinate it</li><li>• Members of APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA has access to and the use of fire extinguishing equipment, eg. Firefighting trailers, backpack sprayers, help (if available) etc.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you are not a member of APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA the FPA can refuse to help extinguish a fire.</li><li>• If APIESRIVIER RURAL FPA does help a non-member, an invoice will be sent to the non-member. The call-out fee amounts to R750.00 – regardless of whether the fire was extinguished successfully or not. The account is immediately payable by the non-member.</li></ul> |
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**APIESRIVIER RURAL FIRE PROTECTION  
ASSOCIATION  
TELEPHONE NUMBER:**

**084 952 2882**