

DELMAS FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
RULES

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P.O. BOX 217
SUNDRA
2200

R U L E S

1. The rules hereunder are compiled as authorised by the National Act on Veld- and Forest fires, Act No 101 of 1998, and are subordinate to the Act and Constitution of this Association.
2. Rules may be amended from time to time by the Management Committee and put forward at a General meeting for approval.
3. The Executive Committee shall make all managerial decisions regarding the day to day matters and shall give an account to the Management Committee at the next Management Committee meeting.
4. The Executive Committee's decisions include the authorisation of funds for routine expenses such as fuel for fire fighters, maintenance work, administrative costs, etc.
5. Firebreaks may be made by using one of the following methods:
 - i. by scraping, ploughing or discing
 - ii. by chemical control
 - iii. by burning

If firebreaks can be made by scraping, ploughing or discing, approval will not be granted for making firebreaks by burning. Exceptional circumstances will be approved by Fire Officer.
6. Firebreaks shall be completed on or before a date determined by Management Committee.
7. In addition for members to comply with the Act, they should inform their representative, namely the area's management member beforehand of the intention to burn firebreaks, or to set a controlled fire, as well as obtaining the necessary authorisation for a controlled fire.
8. All land owners, tenants and occupants shall clear firebreaks, free of any flammable material, around their properties, and shall keep it clear during the period as decided on by the Management Committee. This shall be the period dangerous for veld fires, or, as decided by the Minister, in co-operation with the Area Managers, as stipulated by the Act.
9. The firebreaks around properties shall, at all times, be a minimum of three (3) meters in width. Where this is not practical owing to the terrain, firebreaks may be made away from borders.
10. Owners of a smaller property may, in writing, agree to clear a firebreak around a block of approximately fifty (50) hectare. A copy of the agreement must be handed to the Fire Control Officer in advance, or it must be sent to him per registered mail.
11. Two adjacent owners may, in writing, agree to provide a firebreak of six (6) meters wide on one of the adjacent properties. A copy of the agreement must be supplied in advance to the Fire Control Officer, as in point 10.

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12. Structures containing fire hazards, for example thatched roofs and sails over a framework, shall be protected by a firebreak of five (5) meters in width around the structure. Grass between the firebreak and the structure shall be kept short, and shall not, in the case of dry grass, exceed seventy five (75) millimetres in length. A request for assistance from a helicopter is unfair in cases where grass of a ~~height~~^{length} of, for example, one (1) meter in height, grows up against the thatched roof, building or structure.
13. All dumping grounds and workers quarters are high risk areas and shall be handled as described in the above mentioned point 12.
14. Membership fees shall be levied as follows:
 - i. R50-00 per annum for properties up to 50 hectare
 - ii. R75-00 per annum for properties up to 150 hectare
 - iii. R100-00 per annum for properties up to 250 hectare
 - iv. R200-00 per annum for properties exceeding 250 hectare
 - v. R50-00 per annum for all Organisations active in the Delmas district.
15. Mutual assistance among members shall be on a reciprocal basis. Non-members shall pay as follows:
 - i. For the loan of a fire fighter R50-00 per day or part thereof, as well as fuel, repair costs and transportation costs to the agents where applicable.
 - ii. For the loan of a fire fighter on wheels, R75-00 per day or part thereof, as well as fuel, repair costs and transportation costs to and from the agents, where applicable.
 - iii. For the loan of a ~~backpack~~^{long back} hose, R20-00 per day or part thereof, ~~as well as fuel~~, repair costs and transportation costs to and from the agents, where applicable
 - iv. Fuel used ~~by members~~^{by fire equipment} shall be refunded by the general fund.
 - v. Should a member render assistance on the property of a non-member, he shall inform that person in advance that the person shall be responsible for expenses incurred.
 - vi. AA tariffs shall be used for the calculation of costs of vehicles.
 - vii. Non-members shall be held responsible for expenses incurred over and above the loan of equipment, for example, the compensation of fire-beaters.
 - viii. Payments made by non-members shall be deposited in the General Fund. All costs shall be paid and receipts shall be issued by the Treasurer.
16. The principle shall always be that funds be applied for the benefit of members for example
 - i. The purchasing of equipment and protective clothing, and administrative costs.
 - ii. Assistance to members who suffered damages.
 - iii. Maintenance of equipment and fuel
17. 2 Meetings shall be held between April and October of each year in order to relay information on to all members.
18. Written reports shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for discussion at a Committee meeting and report back at the Annual General Meeting.
19. An annual general meeting shall be held during June of each year at which time the Executive Committee shall report.

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20. After every fire the Fire Officer, or his deputy, shall ensure that he receives the appropriate report ~~(attached)~~ from the relevant Ward Co-ordinator.
21. Persons in charge of equipment shall ensure that such equipment are at all times:
 - i. Stored under cover
 - ii. Filled with fuel and oil and are clean.
 - iii. Available. Should a person leave his property, he should ensure that the necessary arrangements are made for the equipment to be available.
22. An owner may not burn a firebreak unless conditions are favourable for the burning of firebreaks.
23. Owners of adjacent farms could agree to make a common firebreak away for the border between their properties.
24. Any person who believes that a fire on any piece of ground may be threatening to life, property or the environment, can, together with other persons under his direction, enter the ground in order to extinguish the fire and to prevent it from spreading.
25. Should the person in control of a fire believe that the fire is threatening to life, property and the environment or that it can destroy life, property or the environment, or that it can spread from a property he shall be entitled to the following steps:
 - i. To enter any ground
 - ii. To destroy any trees, grass, crops or other plants
 - iii. To enter any premises or to break into any premises.
 - iv. To stop any person from entering a premises.
 - v. To remove any person who is in danger, or to remove any person who is hindering him in the execution of duties, with the necessary force.
 - vi. To remove any vehicle or thing, or to order its removal, from the property concerned.
26. Any owner, occupier or person responsible for control of the ground on which the fire occurs, who neglects to take the necessary reasonable steps to extinguish the fire, or who neglects to assist with extinguishing the fire or to contain it to his own property, renders himself guilty to a category 2 misdemeanour according to the Act, and a fine can be levied to such a person.

Should this Act be contravened, legal action shall be taken.