

# **MKHONDO FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

## **2021 BURNING PROHIBITIONS** **IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT 101** **OF 1998**

### **DUE TO THE NATIONAL LOCKDOWN, ALL RESTRICTIONS AND HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS AS PRESCRIBED BY THE VARIOUS STATE DEPARTMENTS MUST BE ADHERED TO.**

The Mkhondo **Fire Protection Association** hereby declares a period of extraordinary fire hazard and therefore directs:

1. That, within the boundaries of the Mkhondo. FPA, no person shall from **1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 up to but not restricted to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021** make a fire in the open air, or, if such a fire has been made, allow it to continue to burn or add fuel thereto, otherwise than –
  - a. fires made within a demarcated picnic or camping area or caravan park, or holiday resorts, but only at places within such an area which have been specifically prepared and maintained for that purpose; provided that such fires are properly extinguished with water and/or sand;
  - b. fires for the preparation of food on residential stands;
  - c. fires made on residential and industrial stands in proclaimed townships;
  - d. burning of harvest residue on cultivated crop fields; provided that such fires are made from 15:00 to 24:00 only on days when the average Fire Danger Index (FDI) at 14:00 for the fire region, as determined by the Fire Protection Association, is less than 45, **except on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays and a day before a public holiday**, when no burning may be undertaken,
    - i. subject to directions in terms of regulation 12 of the regulation promulgated in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983); in consultation with local interested parties and the implementation of reasonable precautions to ensure that fires do not spread in the area and where applicable, **a permit to burn must be obtained from the Mkhondo Fire Protection Association.**
  - e. fires made for initiation school purposes, but only at places, which have been specially prepared and maintained for that purpose to prevent fires from spreading;
2. That, within the boundaries of the Mkhondo. FPA, no person shall from **1<sup>st</sup> May 2021 up to but not restricted to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021** destroy by burning slash originating from any timber plantation or self-sown exotic trees **unless in the possession of a burning permit**. The burning of **PINE** slash is prohibited with effect from **17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.
3. That, within the boundaries of the Mkhondo FPA, no person shall from **1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 up to but not restricted to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021** destroy by burning of harvest residue, cultivated crop fields and veld, clear or maintain a fire belt by burning, or execute block burns;
  - a. **provided that such fires may be made only on days when the Average Fire Danger Index at 14:00 for the fire region, as determined by the Mkhondo Fire Protection Association, is less than 50, except on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays and the day before a Public Holiday** when burning may be undertaken only with special permission from the Fire Protection Officer
    - i. subject to the directions in terms of regulation 12 of the Regulations promulgated in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983), in consultation with the local interested parties and the implementation of reasonable precautions to ensure that fires do not spread in the area and where applicable, **a permit to burn must be obtained from the Mkhondo Fire Protection Association.**

4. **Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act (CARA) (Act 43 of 1983)**

Burning of Grassveld can be done under the following recommendations, after a **permit to burn is obtained from the Mkhondo Fire Protection Association:**

'Dry Tall Grassveld' – Burn from 15<sup>th</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> October weather dependent

- Veld should only be burnt within a period of 2 days after at least 15mm of rain has fallen within 24hrs
- Double width fire belt (40meters or more) must be prepared around the desired area before the end of July.
- **Permit must be obtained from the FPA.**
- Acceptable Fire Fighting equipment must be present. At least One two thousand liter water cart and crew.
- Burning on Friday's will not be allowed unless during the previous 24 hrs at least 20 mm of rain has fallen
- Maximum FDI prediction of 50 or less must be forecast and be the actual when burn is started.
- The FDI for the following day may not exceed 50.

**It is further recommended that grazing veld only be burnt once every 3 years**

**NOTE:**

**THE FIRE PROTECTION OFFICER HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE OR REVOKE ANY BURN PERMIT AT ANY TIME WITH VALID REASON.**

**Mkhondo Fire Protection Association rules include:**

1. Landowners intending to conduct a prescribed burn or to burn a firebreak must inform their neighbours.
2. Permission must be obtained, by means of a burning permit, from the Mkhondo Fire Protection Association Operations Centre. The Fire Protection Officer will use extreme discretion where the Grassveld borders on commercial crops or plantations. Fire breaks and fire fighting resources must also be in place.
3. Neighbours to co-operate when burning mutual fire breaks.
4. **No burning** if a FDI of 55, or higher is predicted for that day.
5. No burning on Fridays after 12:00, after 12:00 on the day before a public holiday, public holidays or weekends. In extreme cases the Fire Protection Officer may grant permission to burn on these days with a permit
6. Firebreaks to be made around all dwellings.
7. Where dwellings are in a cluster or close proximity to each other, a firebreak can be made around the perimeter of such an area
8. Each owner is answerable to their Zone Fire Warden.
9. **All fires to be reported to the Fire Protection Officer, Zone Fire Warden and neighbours immediately.**
10. Any planned controlled burns under Eskom power lines to be reported to the operations centre or Eskom before such burn.
11. Every attempt must be made to complete burning of firebreaks by the end of July. If this has not been possible, the Fire Protection Officer may extend this period. Members are to strictly adhere to the conditions stipulated on the permissions.
12. It is a criminal offence to leave controlled burns unattended before the fire is totally extinguished.

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