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Veld Fire Management Plan

Read in conjunction with Overstrand Fire Management Plan

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this plan is to minimize the fire risks for Overstrand Area.

This operational manual was set up using known best practices to help Overstrand Municipality and private property owners/managers and lessee's of property to best manage their property within the laws regulating fire on properties (non-structural fires), set norms and standards for the management of fires and fire prevention in the best interest of biodiversity management and public safety.

What we have tried to do is to simplify the subject so that persons that are not normally acquainted with the subject, or who do not perform this function as part of their normal work function, would be able to initiate and complete a Fire management program.

BACKGROUND

In order to ensure that both the fire-dependent vegetation and private property are managed correctly during a fire, it is imperative to have a Veld Fire Management Plan from which the property owner, manager or the lessee of the property can gain the required information to manage their property.

It is the objective of this guideline document to provide a brief, yet essential, user-friendly information for the site manager to put in place preventative measures in the event of a fire on their property.

FIRE DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

A great deal has been written about the vegetation of the Western Cape and the extraordinarily rich variety of plant species that occur there, many of them being found nowhere else.

Ecological principles of fynbos management using fire

The application of fire is the major management practice in fynbos ecosystems.

- Fynbos requires fire to maintain its diversity, to maintain ecosystem processes and to maintain its plant and animal communities in a healthy condition.
- If fynbos is left unburnt for too long, typically 25 or more years, it will become moribund. There is a tendency to believe that there is an "ideal" time to burn, and that all fires should occur at this time, but this is not so.



- Fynbos ecosystems require variation between successive fires in order to maintain the diversity of species because different fires favor different species.
- These species have survived and coexisted because they are adapted to a particular fire regime.

Key components of a fire regime involve at least the following:

- Fire frequency – a probability distribution of the intervals between successive fires.
- Fire season – a probability distribution of fires in each month of the year; and
- Fire intensity – a range of fire intensities.

If the natural fire regime in an area is well understood, then management actions that mimic this regime are highly likely to result in the maintenance of the biodiversity of plant communities.

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FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT PLAN

RISK: FUEL LOAD

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that the municipality can prevent any disaster, destroyed by fires and to ensure that the maintenance of this risk, is to prevent that this will lead to minimize the loss of life and/or injury to any disaster.

The high-risk sites have been identified by role-players within the department. The understanding of this risk is to eliminate or to reduce the risk, which is not always possible, but if we as role-players can work together to reduce this fuel load, the possibility is there that when we commit ourselves to good planning, to mitigate and effectively implement our action plan, we can ensure that the impossible is possible.

We already started with interacting with numerous role players, Cape Nature, WOF, Conservancy goFPA and our internal departments.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREAS

Invasive alien plants (IAPs) are a serious problem and they have spread rapidly in the Overstrand, impacting resident species diversity and ecosystem processes.

Without natural enemies, these plants reproduce and spread quickly, taking valuable water and space from our indigenous plants.

Many alien plants consume more water than local plants, depleting our valuable water resources.

Thick alien vegetation can also provide fuel for veldfires.

There are 559 alien species listed as weeds and invaders and another 560 species are listed as prohibited and may not be introduced into South Africa.

WARDS INCLUDED

Refer to map

MAP OF THE AREAS IDENTIFIED

BETTY'S BAY

KLEINMOND

AFDAKSRIVIER

FISHERHAVEN

MEERENSEE

HAWSTON (NEW EXTENTION)



MUNICIPAL FARM

PREEKSTOEL

FERNKOOF

DE KOP

Lê BOS

VIOLA

KLIPGAT 1

SPATIAL MAP

✓ **LAYOUT OF THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS,**

PROCESSES

AREAS	WARDS	ADDRESS	ACTIVITY	RESULTS
BETTY'S BAY		BEHIND SEAFARM	Meeting to be schedule (A.APLON)	In progress
KLEINMOND		ARABELLA	Meeting to be schedule (Y.SCHOLTZ)	In progress
HERMANUS		AFDAKSRIVIER	BUSY WITH CLEANING. Needs to apply for burn permit goFPA	In progress
HERMANUS		FISHERHAVEN	Fire safety busy with plot clearing process E.SOLOMONS	In progress
HERMANUS		MEERENSEE	Fire safety busy plot clearing process E.SOLOMONS	In progress
HERMANUS		HAWSTON EXT	Need to clear the foot of the mountain, behind the houses. (Complaint must be forward to Area Manager) Y. SCHOLTZ	Area Manager
HERMANUS		MUNICIPAL FARM	Ensure proper fire breaks with WOF.	Awaiting on prescribed burn



HERMANUS		PREEKSTOEL	Area around the infrastructure of the OSM office has been cleaned by WOF. A. APLON	application. In order.
HERMANUS		FERNKLOOF	Ensure proper firebreaks around the municipal infrastructure. Reduce the fuel load. A. APLON/SCHOLTZ	Waiting for the appropriate weather conditions to be burn.
STANDFORD		DE KOP	Cape Nature, WOF & Fire dept, busy with public awareness. A. APLON	In progress
STANDFORD		Lê BOS	goFPA busy with negotiation with landowners goFPA	Awaiting of feedback
KK/HERM/GB		VIOLA	WOF will assist by clearing around the water purifications network/systems A. APLON/WOF	In progress
GANSBAAI		KLIPGAT 1	Meeting to be schedule. A. APLON	In progress

CHALLENGES

GIS System

- ✓ Staff are not sure how to search for information about the GIS system.
- ✓ Training plays an important role in how to work on the GIS system.
- ✓ GIS person from goFPA needs access on the OSM GIS program to assist us with the capturing of data on the system.

Weather conditions

- ✓ The current weather conditions do not allow the identified areas on the premises to start burning.

Residents

- ✓ Most of the residents are not local it is a challenge to do public awareness program because not all residents are reached.



A veld-fire is any fire that occurs outside the boundaries of urban built areas and poses the potential of running out of control. About 90% of veld fires are started by humans; the other 10% are started by natural occurrences.

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