

FIRE READINESS

SAFIRE INSURANCE COMPANY | www.safireinsurance.com | FSP No: 2092



SINCE
87

FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM:

Fire Alert Stage	BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	ORANGE	RED
Fire Danger Index (FDI)	0 - 20	21 - 45	46 - 60	61 - 75	76 - 100
Fire Status	SAFE	MODERATE	DANGEROUS	VERY DANGEROUS	EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
Flame Length (m)	0 - 1	1 - 1.2	1.2 - 1.8	1.8 - 2.4	2.4 PLUS
Fire Prevention and Preparedness Measures	No precaution is needed.	Fires including prescribed burns may be lit, used or maintained in the open air, on the condition that persons making fires take reasonable precautions against the fires spreading.	No fires may be allowed in the open air except those that are authorised by the Fire Protection Officer where a Fire Protection Association exists; or elsewhere by the Chief Fire Officer of the local fire service; or fires in designated fireplaces.	Subject to promulgation of Chapter 3 of the NVFFA of 1998 as amended; no fires may be allowed in the open air, except in designated fireplaces and for use for veld management purposes when due authority has been granted.	No fire may be allowed under any circumstances in the open air and Fire Protection Associations and municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency fire emergency and disaster management plans including extraordinary readiness and response plans. All operations likely to ignite fires halted. Householders placed on alert.
Fire Controllability Guide	If started, they spread very slowly and may go out without suppression forces. There is little flaming combustion and intensity is low. Control is readily achieved and little or no mop up is required.	Ignition may take place near prolonged heat sources. Speed is slow in forests, moderate in open areas. Light surface fires with low flames. Control is readily achieved with direct manual attack with minimum forces. Steep, exposed slopes may require light mop up.	Open flame will start fires. Mature grasslands and forest litter will burn readily. Spread is moderate in forests and fast in exposed areas. Fires burn on surface with moderate flame heights. Fight fires with direct attack and all available resources including aircraft. Light to moderate mop up.	Ignition can occur readily with fast spread in forests. Grass fire behaviour will be extreme. Fires will be very hot with crowning and short to medium spotting. Direct attack on the head may not be possible requiring indirect methods on flanks. All available resources must be used with extended mop up. Beware of wind change!	Ignition can occur from sparks. Fires will be extremely hot with fast rate of spread. Control may not be possible during the day due to long range spotting and crowning. Suppression forces should limit efforts to limiting lateral spread. Damage potential total. All available resources must be used with extended mop up and careful attention to areas that can flare up. Beware of wind change!
Relationship with Disaster Management				The threat of disastrous wildfires exists at municipal level under these conditions. Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency plans and inform National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres. (Section 49 of the Disaster Management Act of 2002).	The threat of disastrous wildfires exists at provincial level under these conditions. Municipal Disaster Management Centres must invoke contingency plans and inform National and Provincial Disaster Management Centres. (Section 49 of the Disaster Management Act of 2002).
Fire Behaviour	Fires are not likely to ignite. If they do, they are likely to go out without suppression action. There is little flaming combustion.	Fires likely to ignite readily but spread slowly. Flame lengths in grassland and plantation forest litter lower than 1.0 m and rates of forward spread less than 0.3 kilometres per hour.	Fires ignite readily and spread rapidly. Flame lengths between 1 and 2 m, and rates of forward spread between 0.3 and 1.5 kilometres per hour.	Fires ignite readily and spread very rapidly, with local crowning and short-range spotting. Flame lengths between 2 and 5 m, and rates of forward spread between 1.5 and 2.0 kilometres per hour.	Extreme fire behaviour. Long range fire spotting is likely in grasslands and plantations. Rates of forward spread of head fires can exceed 4.0 kilometres per hour and flame lengths will be in the order of 5 - 15 m or more.
Fire Suppression Difficulty	One or a few field crew with basic fire fighting tools can easily suppress any fire that may occur.	Direct attack feasible: Fires can safely be approached on foot. Suppression is readily achieved by direct manual attack methods.	Direct attack constrained: Not safe to fight fire on foot for extended periods of time. Best forms of control should combine water tankers and adequate fire fighters.	Indirect attack feasible: Fires cannot easily be approached on foot. Strategic burning combined with aerial support are the recommended methods to combat fires. Equipment such as water tankers should concentrate efforts on containing the flanks and the head of the fire. Special precautions may be required to protect lives and property.	Any form of fire control is likely to be precluded until the weather changes. Back burning dangerous and best avoided. Attacking the fire from the back, along the flanks is possible, using a combination of all available resources.

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