

THABAZIMBI FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION RULES AND MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

As approved on 29.05.2025

These rules and minimum requirements are to be adhered to by landowners/members of the Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association (TFPA) and will apply to landowners/members residing within the Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association area of operations. They are applicable in terms of the National Veld & Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998.

The purpose of these generic rules is to be used by the District Municipalities to put by-laws in place.

1. MEMBERSHIP:

- 1.1 All landowners/members must undertake to abide by the rules of Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association as stipulated in Chapter 2 Section 4(6) of the National Veld & Forests Fire Act.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of landowner/member to notify the Secretary of the Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association in writing of any change of membership details, including change of ownership.
- 1.3 Landowners/members must pay their membership fees applicable to their property as set out every year by the Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association by the **01st of July**.
- 1.4 Landowners/members must give written notice of termination of membership.
- 1.5 Membership fees for the year 2025 are as follows:
 - Plots R200.00
 - Farms R700.00
 - Mines and Communities R5 500.00
- 1.6 Membership will automatically be terminated should a member **NOT** pay their membership fees within 90 days of receipt of invoice.

2. GENERAL:

- 2.1 Definition:



- Plot – Agricultural land of 25ha and smaller
- Farm – Agricultural land larger than 25ha

3. SPECIFIC HAZARD AREA PROTECTION:

- 3.1 Landowners/members are responsible to isolate any hazard area that is present or likely to develop on their property to eliminate any danger it may create to adjoining property.
- 3.2 Where landowners/members are in doubt regarding the danger of a specific area, they must contact the TFPA or FPO for advice.

4. COMPLIANCE WITH FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEM:

- 4.1 Forecasts of the fire danger rating will be distributed from the Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association Chairperson to the Sector Leaders on a daily basis and will apply from midnight at the start of the FDI.
- 4.2 Landowners/members must be conversant with the daily fire danger rating system and comply with the instructions and rules pertaining to the danger ratings, e.g. fires in open air, standby levels, etc.

Lowveld FDI Description	Colour	Category	Lowveld FDI Precaution
SAFE (Low)	BLUE	0 - 20	Low fire hazard. Controlled burn operations can normally be executed with a reasonable degree of safety
MODERATE	GREEN	21 - 45	Although controlled burning operations can be executed without creating a fire hazard, care must be taken when burning on exposed, dry slopes. Keep constant watch for unexpected wind speed and direction changes
DANGEROUS (High)	YELLOW	46 - 60	Controlled burning not recommended when fire danger index exceeds 45. Aircraft should be called in at early stages of a fire.
VERY DANGEROUS	ORANGE	61 - 75	No controlled burning of any nature should take place. Careful note should be taken of any sign of smoke anywhere, especially on the upwind side of any plantation. Any fire should be attacked with maximum force at hand, including all aircraft at the time.
EXTREMELY DANGEROUS	RED	76 -	All personnel and equipment should be removed from the field. Fire teams, labour and equipment are to be placed on full stand-by. At first sign of smoke, every possible measure should be taken in order to bring the fire under control in the shortest possible time. All available aircraft are to be called for without delay.

5. FIREBREAKS:

- 5.1 Every landowner/member on whose land a veld fire may start or burn or from whose land it may spread must prepare and maintain a firebreak on his/her side of the boundary between his/her land and adjoining land.
- 5.2 All landowners/members are responsible for the creation of firebreaks that must be made around the borders of their land, where possible:

Initial _____



- 5.2.1 **PLOTS** – The firebreaks must have a minimum width of **2m**.
5.2.2 **FARMS** – The firebreaks must have a minimum width of **3m**.
- 5.3 Internal firebreaks must be made that divides your land into blocks. Internal roads may be used as firebreaks. The roads must be free of any overhanging tree branches.
- 5.4 An Application for Permit to do Controlled Burning must be completed by the landowner/member, his/her neighbours must sign the form and sent via whatsapp or email to the Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association Secretary or Sector Leader **Five (5) days** before any fire is lit, and weather conditions should be monitored. The TFPA and Sector Leader must give the final approval before the landowner/member may burn.
- 5.5 The landowner/member **MUST** inform the Sector Leader and all WhatsApp Fire Groups in their Sector before they start to burn, and the landowner/member **MUST** inform the Sector Leader and all WhatsApp Fire Groups in their Sector when the burning operation is completed in the specific area.
- 5.6 The landowner/member must comply with the listed Rules and Minimum Requirements before the burning commences.
- 5.7 The landowner/member **MUST** inform the Sector Leader and all WhatsApp Fire Groups in their Sector immediately of any uncontrolled spread at the site where there is being burnt.
- 5.8 No burning may take place if the forecast/actual FDI is 50 or higher and the windspeed more than 10 km/h, without permission, irrespective whether the landowner/member was given permission to burn. All burning operations will be managed strictly according to the weather forecasted and actual FDI, irrelevant of farm specific rainfall.
- 5.9 No burning may take place during weekends, on a public holiday, a day before the weekend (Friday) or public holiday.
- 5.10 Firebreaks must be kept clean so that vehicles do not get damaged while used during firefighting.
- 5.11 The making of firebreaks must be finalized before the fire prohibition period of each year.
- 5.12 The standard mopping up rules apply, and is it the landowner/member's responsibility to do a proper mop-up after a fire, and must mopping up be done for at least four (4) days after a fire.
- NB:** Where there is a chance of soil erosion breaks should be mowed or brush cut with vegetation not exceeding 10cm (ankle height), and brush being broad spread at least 3m from nearest edge of break.



6. PRESCRIBED/CONTROLLED BURNING (BLOCKBURNS):

- 6.1 The landowner/member must complete an Application to Burn Veld. (All the necessary documentation will be sent with your annual TFPA Registration Forms).
- 6.2 Submit the Application to the Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association Secretary at tfpa1572@gmail.com
- 6.3 The Inspector from the Department of Forestry, Fishery and Environment will contact the landowner/member for inspection purposes.
- 6.4 Once the inspection has been done on the property, the landowner/member will then have to wait for a respond in writing from the Department of Forestry, Fishery and Environment, whether they can burn or not.

Please note that this process should be completed within 30 days from the date of receiving your application form in case everything goes well.

- 6.5 After you have received your approval from the Department of Forestry, Fishery and Environment an Application for Permit to do Controlled Burning must be completed by the landowner/member, his/her neighbours must sign the form and sent via whatsapp or email to the Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association Secretary or Sector Leader **Five (5) days** before any fire is lit, and weather conditions should be monitored. The TFPA and Sector Leader must give the final approval before the landowner/member may burn.
- 6.6 The landowner/member **MUST** inform the Sector Leader and all WhatsApp Fire Groups in their Sector before they start to burn, and the landowner/member **MUST** inform the Sector Leader and all WhatsApp Fire Groups in their Sector when the burning operation is completed in the specific area.
- 6.7 The landowner/member must comply with the listed Rules and Minimum Requirements before the burning of block burn commences.
- 6.8 The landowner/member **MUST** inform the Sector Leader and all WhatsApp Fire Groups in their Sector immediately of any uncontrolled spread at the site where there is being burnt.
- 6.9 No burning may take place if the forecast/actual FDI is 50 or higher and the windspeed more than 10 km/h, without permission, irrespective whether the landowner/member was given permission to burn. All burning operations will be managed strictly according to the weather forecasted and actual FDI, irrelevant of farm specific rainfall.
- 6.10 No burning may take place during weekends, on a public holiday, a day before the weekend (Friday) or public holiday.



6.11 The standard mopping up rules apply, and is it the landowner/member's responsibility to do a proper mop-up after a fire, and must mopping up be done for at least four (4) days after a fire.

6.12 Block Burns can only be done after **25mm of continuous rain** was received at the area where the Block Burn is going to be done and if the FDI permits for burning.

7. BACKBURN:

7.1 A backburn may be done on someone else's property to save lives, animals, buildings and structures.

7.2 A backburn must be done with proper planning.

7.3 It must be safe to do a backburn.

7.4 Ensure that an anchor point is in place.

7.5 If possible, consult with the landowner/member. If the landowner/member cannot be found on his/her property, you must attempt contact the landowner/member telephonically or via radio.

7.6 Sufficient resources, equipment and staff must be on site to manage the back burn.

7.7 Take before and after photos.

7.8 All damaged caused to gain access to a property must be repaired after the backburn.

8. MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR LANDOWNERS, NATURE CONSERVATION AREAS AND COMMERCIAL FARMERS:

8.1 All landowners/members must comply with Chapter 5 of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act by having equipment, protective clothing and trained personnel as reasonable for the extent of the landowner's property.

8.2 All landowners/members must have fire-fighting equipment and the proper PPE.

8.3 All landowners/members must ensure that in their absence there is a responsible person present on or near the property who will assist in extinguishing the fire and take reasonable steps to alert the FPO or designated person/Sector Leader and neighbouring landowners/their agents.

8.4 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR FIREFIGHTING EQUIPMENT:



FARM

First Aid Kit
2 x Firefighters
10 x Fire Beaters
10 x Rakes
Drip Torch or Fire Lighter
1 x Mobile Radio per firefighting team

PLOT

First Aid Kit
2 x 15L Knapsacks
3 x Fire Beaters
3 x Rakes
Drinking Water for the Fire Fighters

8.5 MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PPE:

FARMS AND PLOTS

100% Cotton Overall or Denim Overall
100% Cotton Long Sleeve T-Shirt or Shirt
Balaclava, single layer
Leather or Safety Boots (No Gumboots or Tekkie's)
Leather or Denim Gloves
Heat Resistant Eye Protection
Breathing Protection (Dust Mask or Wild Land Fire Mask)
In areas with high trees, Wildland Fire Helmets or Hard Hat with a chin strap will be required.

8.6 All landowners/members or their staff performing fire-fighting **MUST** have the minimum safety equipment and PPE required for veld fighting.

8.7 The FPO/Sector Leader has the right to request for someone to leave a fire line if they do not have the proper PPE.

9. TRAINING:

9.1 All landowners/members or their staff performing fire-fighting **MUST** be trained in a basic veld fire-fighting course by an Accredited Training Institution, to obtain a Certificate of Competence.

9.2 The training courses must consist of the following modules/subjects:

Basic Fire Fighter Course:

- The Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998
- Fire Danger Rating
- Understanding Fire

Initial _____



- Types of Fire
- Duties and organisation at fires
- Safety at fires
- Survival at fires
- Correct use of hand tools at fires
- Mopping up

Crew Leaders/Fire Boss (candidates must have completed basic fire fighter course):

- Fire terminology
- The Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998
- Fire behaviour
- Fire Danger Rating System
- Organisation at fires (ICS)
- Initial attack and tactics
- Fire extinguishing methods

9.3 Lodge Supervisors should at least attend a Lodge Training (Fire Safety in Buildings) U/S 252250 course by an Accredited Training Institution to obtain a Certificate of Competence.

10. COMPETENCE STANDARDS (FOR FIRE-FIGHTERS AND RELATED PERSONNEL):

10.1 The Thabazimbi Fire Protection Association, FPO or designated person have the following responsibilities with regards to training –

- Schedule courses for persons in charge of fires or fire-fighters
- Schedule refresher training on a regular basis for trained persons
- Ensure that training is conducted on an acceptable level

10.2 A landowner/member has the following responsibilities in regards to training-

- Make persons available for scheduled courses
- Carry the cost of refresher training
- Keep a register of all trained persons in their service
- The register must include name, ID, type of course, training institution, and copy of certificate.

11. MINIMUM RECOMMENDATION REGARDING CLEARANCE AROUND BUILDINGS:

Lodges – 30 m
Farmhouses – 30 m
Storerooms – 30 m



Garages – 30 m
Workers houses – 30 m
Transformer boxes – 30 m

12. VEHICLE TYRES AND CONVEYER BELTS (WASTE TYRE REGULATIONS, 2017):

12.1 As per the Government Gazette Nr 41157 of 29 September 2017, no person may:

- Manage waste tyres in a manner which does not comply with these Regulations;
- Recover or dispose of waste tyre in a manner that is likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to health and well-being;
- Dispose of a waste tyre at a waste disposal facility;
- Recover any financial contribution in terms of a waste tyre management plant from a subscriber to the plan, unless authorised by law;
- Export waste tyres in whatever for unless the exportation of such waste tyres is authorised by the Minister in writing.

12.2 The following persons must register with the Bureau in format specified by the Bureau, within ninety (90) days after the commencement of these Regulations:

- A tyre producer not registered in terms of the repealed regulations as contemplated in regulation 1(a);
- A tyre dealer;
- A person in control of a collection point where waste tyres may be collected;
- A waste tyre stockpile owner;
- A waste tyre processor (Landowners making use of tyres for building of game pens);
- An owner or operator waste pre-processing facility;
- A depot owner or operator;
- A micro-collector of waste tyres;
- A waste transporter;
- An owner or operator of a waste tyre storage site.

12.3 Subject to any other requirements of the Act, waste tyres may only be stored under the following conditions:

- Waste tyre piles may not exceed a height of 3 m, a length of 20 m and a width of 10 m;
- All interior firebreaks between the piles of waste tyres must be at least 5 m wide;
- The site must be flat and hard packed;
- The site must make provision for storm water management;
- The edge of the piles must be at least 8 m from the perimeter fence, and any buildings and the area between the piles and the fence and buildings must be clear of debris and vegetation;
- All firebreaks must be at least 8 m wide;



- Waste tyre piles may not be located within 8 m of a powerline;
- Waste tyres must not be stored in manner which impact or pose a significant environmental risk to any sensitive environment.

12.4 The site on which waste tyres are stored must meet the following requirements:

- For the tyre dealer the total square area for storage of waste tyres shall not exceed 500 m²;
- Any other waste tyres storage area shall not exceed 30 000 m²;
- A waste tyre storage plan must be developed by the waste tyre processor and the waste tyre storage site owner, which must be:
 - Submitted to the relevant FPO;
 - Available on site at all times;
 - Made available on request to an official of the National or Provincial Department responsible for Environmental Affairs, or of the Municipality.

12.5 A person is guilty of an offence if that person contravenes or fails to comply with the following:

- A provision of regulations 4, 5, 6, 7(1) and (2), 9(5) and (6), 10(1) to (4), (6), and (7);
- A waste tyre management plan;
- A waste tyre stockpile abatement plan;
- A written instruction in terms of regulation 12(1)(b);

12.6 A person is liable on conviction of an offence in terms of sub-regulation (1) to:

- Imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 years;
- An appropriate fine;
- Both a fine and imprisonment;
- After failure to resubmit the amended waste tyre stockpile abatement plan within the specified timeframe.

13. MANUFACTURED FIREWORKS, CHINESE LANTERNS AND FLAIRS:

13.1 As per the Explosive Act 26 of 1956:

- No person, other than the manufacturer, shall sell or deal in blasting materials and fireworks unless he is in possession of a license issued by an inspector, and except in accordance with the conditions of that license;



- A retail dealer in fireworks shall not sell or allow or permit to be sold any fireworks to a child under the apparent age of 16 years;
- No person shall allow or permit any children under the age of 16 years to handle or use fireworks except under supervision of an adult person.

13.2 The use or exploding of Fireworks during an organized event:

- It shall be unlawful for any person to use or explode any fireworks;
- Within 500 metres of any explosive magazine, explosive factory, petroleum depot or gasometer;
- In any building any public thoroughfare;
- On any public place or resort, except with the prior written permission of the local authority.

13.3 No permission shall operate a public display of fireworks on any premises without the written permission of the Chief Inspector of Explosives.

Such permission shall stipulate the conditions to be complied with and non-compliance with any of these conditions shall constitute an offence under this regulation.

13.4 Application for permission to operate a public display of fireworks shall be made in writing and shall set forth:

- The name of the person or organisation sponsoring the display together with the names of the person actually in charge of the firing of the display who shall be at least 18 years of age and competent for the work;
- The date and time of day at which the display is to be held;
- The exact location planned for the display;
- A description setting for the age and qualifications of the person who are to do the actual discharging of the fireworks;
- The number and kinds of fireworks to be discharged and the value of the display;
- The manner and the place of storage of such fireworks prior to the display;
- A diagram of the grounds on which the display is to be held showing:
 - The point at which the fireworks are to be discharge, which shall be at least 100 m from the nearest building, road or railway, and at least 20 m from the nearest telephone, telegraph or powerline, tree or other overhead obstruction;
 - The discretion in which aerial fireworks, if any, are to be fired;
 - The area to be kept clear of persons which shall extend at least 50 m from the front and the sides of the point at which the fireworks are to be discharged;



- The area to be kept clean on which falling residue from aerial fireworks is expected to drop, which shall extend for at least 100 m to the rear of the firing point;
- The location of all buildings and the road within 200 m of the firing site and of all trees, telegraph or telephone lines or other overhead obstructions at or adjacent to the firing site.

13.5 At a public display of fireworks, it shall be an offence:

- For any person wilfully to enter on or remain in that area reserved for receiving falling residue from aerial fireworks;
- For any unauthorised person wilfully to proceed beyond the area demarcated by the organisers for spectators.

13.6 It shall be unlawful for any person to use or explode any fireworks:

- Within 500 m of any explosive magazine, explosive factory, petroleum depot or gasometer;
- In any building any public thoroughfare;
- On any public place or resort, except with the prior written permission of the local authority.
- The point at which the fireworks are to be discharge, which shall be at least 100 m from the nearest building, road or railway, and at least 20 m from the nearest telephone, telegraph or powerline, tree or other overhead obstruction;

13.7 Any person who by any act or omission commits a breach of any of the regulations of this Chapter, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding, R600 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months or to both such fine and such imprisonment, and the explosive, if any, in respect of which the contravention or non-compliance has taken place, may be confiscated.

Due to dry conditions in the Thabazimbi Municipal boundaries the TFPA recommends that no fireworks, Chinese lanterns or flairs should be discharged as this could lead to runaway veld fires. Contravening this Act will be prosecuted by Court.

14. EQUIPMENT THAT CAN CAUSE A FIRE:

- 14.1 When making use of grinders or welding machines, there must be fire prevention equipment (2 x 9.0 kg Fire Extinguishers or 2 x Knapsacks) with you.
- 14.2 Operators of road graders and grass cutters must have fire prevention equipment of (2 x Knapsacks) with them and a person walking with them to make the operator aware of any fires that started due to the grading or cutting of grass.



15. REPORTING FIRES:

- 15.1 Landowners/members must report all fires immediately after being sighted to their Sector Leader, and immediate neighbours.

16. FIRE ACCESS:

- 16.1 Landowners/members must ensure that access routes are maintained for fire-fighters and their vehicles to use.
- 16.2 In the absence of any access, fences or any other object will be damaged to gain access to the fire if there is an imminent threat to life and/or property.
- 16.3 Where electric fences/gates are used and there is a fire on the property, gates should be opened and disarmed to allow free access and all electric fences switched off for fire fighting vehicles and crews.

17. ACTIONS AFTER FIRES:

- 17.1 All fires must be reported to the Fire Protection Association on the standard form for FPA's within **five (5) days** of the fire.
- 17.2 The standard mopping up rules apply, and is it the landowner/member's responsibility to do a proper mop-up after a fire, and must mopping up be done for at least four (4) days after a fire.
- 17.3 The scene of the fire may not be left unattended. The perimeter must be patrolled and any smouldering material within 20 m of the perimeter of the fire extinguished. Patrolling is especially necessary where underground fires may have occurred e.g. in dense litter or marshy ground.
- 17.4 All fire-fighting equipment must be checked weekly and serviced as required to ensure full serviceability.

18. STATISTICS:

- 18.1 Each landowner/member must complete a fire report for uncontrolled and non-prescribed fires or where assistance was rendered at a fire, to maintain an accurate record of all fires.
- 18.2 The FPO or designated person/FPA must update the statistics and forward it to the Secretary for annual submission to the Minister. All statistics have to be submitted by March annually.





19. ENFORCEMENT:

19.1 The following will be the enforcement officers regarding the provisions under the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, and the rules of the FPA as applied within the area of the FPA:

- The Fire Protection Officer
- Forest Officers of the Department of Forestry
- Members of the SAPS

As a Landowner or duly authorised representative I accept the rules and minimum requirements of this FPA.

Signed at _____ on this day _____ of _____ 2025.

Name and Surname

Signature

