PLATORAND AREA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION 2018 BURNING PROHIBITIONS IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE NATIONAL VELD AND FOREST FIRE ACT 101 OF 1998

WHEREAS the **Platorand Area Fire Protection Association** covers an area exceptionally prone to wildfires and,
WHEREAS the said Fire Association has determined a period of extraordinary fire hazard, the said Fire Association therefore directs:

1. That, within the boundaries of the Platorand Area FPA, and subject to paragraph 2 below, no person shall from **1 May 2018, up to and including 31 October 2018**, 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 –

    - 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;
    - fires for the preparation of food on residential stands;
    - fires made on residential and industrial stands in proclaimed townships;
    - 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 Platorand FPA, no person shall from 1 May 2018, up to and including 31 October 2018,

    - Burn harvest residue on cultivated crop fields;
    - destroy by burning slash originating from any timber plantation or self-sown exotic trees,
    - destroy by burning of harvest residue, cultivated crop fields and veld, clear or maintain a fire belt by burning, or execute block burns;

provided that approved fires may be made on days that the regulations regarding FDI and other conditions, as determined by the Fire Protection Association, are conducive thereto, **and such fires are conducted in terms of a valid burning permit issued by the FPA and the terms and conditions of the permit are adhered to**; **provided further that no burning may take place on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or a public holiday except in terms of special or exceptional permits.**

Notwithstanding the aforegoing, no slash may be burnt during the prohibition period.

Local Fire Protection Association rules include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. Landowners intending to conduct a prescribed burn or to burn a firebreak must inform their neighbours, their ward chairmen, the firetower and the Handcrew base.
2. Burning may take place only in terms of a valid burning permit.
3. Clearance must be obtained from the Fire Protection Association Operations Centre at the Handcrew base. Firefighting resources must also be in place.
4. Neighbours to co-operate when burning mutual fire breaks.
5. All FPA regulations regarding FDI and other matters to be adhered to.
6. No burning on Fridays, public holidays or weekends except in terms of special or exceptional permits.
7. Firebreaks to be made around all dwellings.
8. Where dwellings are in a cluster or close proximity to each other, a firebreak can be made around the perimeter of such an area.
9. Each member is answerable to their Ward Representative.
10. Any runaway fires to be reported to the Ward Representative and neighbours immediately.
11. Any planned controlled burns under Eskom power lines to be reported to the operations centre or Eskom before such burn.
12. Every attempt must be made to complete burning of firebreaks by end July. If this has not been possible, then the FPA executive committee has the authority to extend this period. Members are strictly to adhere to the conditions stipulated on the permissions.
13. It is a criminal offence to leave controlled burns unattended before the fire is totally extinguished.
14. In the event that a landowner does not meet the firefighting resources requirements laid down by the FPA, and the FPA management sends the WoF Handcrew to attend a wildfire on that landowner's property, such landowner shall be liable to the Handcrew for the cost of a callout as laid down in the rules of the Handcrew, whether the landowner has sanctioned such attendance or not.
15. When burning a firebreak in the morning it must be possible to cease burning and shut down the burn completely within 30 minutes in the event of necessity.
16. It follows from this that when a vlei is to be burnt out as part of a firebreak, this can only commence in the afternoon after 14h00 if conditions permit. When a vlei is burnt it is impossible to stop the burn at will.