

Module 3.3 FIRE		STATEMENT OF INTENT Veld and forest fires are prevented
Measures		Notes
<b>Legal requirement</b>	<p><b>Farmers comply with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act 32 of 1998.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers are members of the local Fire Protection Association</li> <li>• Farmers prepare and maintain firebreaks on the boundary of the adjoining land</li> <li>• Farmers provide notice to neighbours of the intention to burn</li> <li>• Farmers provide notice to the fire protection association of the intention to burn</li> <li>• Farmers have the necessary equipment and personnel to fight fires</li> <li>• Farmers are aware of the annual restrictions on the burning of firebreaks and crop residue (trash)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Farmers must comply with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 101 of 1998.</b></p> <p>All farmers should be members of the local Fire Protection Association (FPA) which provides regular updates on the Fire Danger Index (FDI)</p> <p>Every farmer on whose land a veld-fire may start or burn or spread is required to prepare and maintain a fire-break on his/her side of the boundary between his/her land and the adjoining land. Required notice to neighbours and the fire protection association for the area must be given.</p> <p>In so far as fire breaks are concerned, the farmer must consider the weather conditions at the time, particularly the humidity, ambient temperature wind speed and direction. The type of terrain and vegetation of the area should also be considered. The fire break must be wide enough and long enough to have a reasonable chance of preventing a veldfire from spreading to or from neighbouring land. The proposed fire break should be reasonably free of inflammable material (cow dung) capable of carrying a veldfire across it.</p> <p>Furthermore, each farmer must ensure that prescribed or equipment, protective clothing and trained personnel, reasonably required in the circumstances is available. The farmer must also ensure that in his/her absence, there are responsible persons who will extinguish or assist in extinguishing the fire and take all reasonable steps to alert owners of adjoining land and the relevant Fire Protection Association. Therefore, adequate fire-fighting equipment and facilities with accessible water points must be available and, ideally, a 'fire cell' agreement between neighbours with a plan of action ready in the event of a runaway fire in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>Boundaries and fire breaks can be grassed and mown on slopes steeper than 2%, where cultivation or soil disturbance is not a permissible alternative.</p> <p>Fields should be harvested strategically to prevent runaway fires burning large sections of the farm. Waterways and roads should be used in the fire break plan.</p>