



**Did you know that unplanned wildfires are annually responsible for?**

- Human casualties, loss to infrastructure, cultivated crops and biodiversity,
- Huge impacts on the social and economic values of properties, owners and communities,
- Huge financial expenditure for fire fighting operations and
- That fire claims and expensive court cases has caused many farmers to become bankrupt and forced to leave their property.

**What are the implications for landowners regarding the National Veld en Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998.**

The Act place certain responsibilities to the landowners on which properties the possibility exist that a fire may start and spread (this does not specify or exclude properties according to sizes - it stated all properties where the likelihood exist that a fire may start and spread). Responsibilities include aspect like placement of firebreaks on property boundaries, efficient trained personal and equipment to prevent a fire from spreading across boundaries and other duties such as readiness to combat fires. The Act also makes provision for the establishment of a Fire Protection Association (FPA's). The Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association (GCFPA) was registered in 2005 according to the Act.

**The Greater Cederberg FPA (GCFPA)**

The GCFPA cover an area of more than 418 000 hectares and have 321 signed up members. The GCFPA do has his own employed staff component that are available to members either for strategic fire management planning, compliance to the Act and assistance for the implementation of the fire management plan. The staff component includes the FPA manager, the Base manager and 22 trained fire fighters. These are all base in Piketberg. A vehicle with a trailer is available to visit members and to transport the team and equipment to do fire management related tasks. Members include owners from the rural areas of the Cederberg, Bergrivier, Swartland and Witzenberg Municipal areas.

**What are the objectives of the GCFPA?**

Promote integrated fire management in the GCFPA in order to minimise losses to social, economic and ecological assets. This is achieved through the successful implementation of strategies focussing on fire awareness, fire prevention, fire preparedness and fire protection.

**What are the advantages of being a member of the GCFPA?**

In a court case members are not presumed negligent and the plaintiff have to proof negligence at his cost. If you are not a member you are negligent and have to proof your own non-negligence.

'n Fire management plan will be compile by experts, such plan will assist members to reduce risk and to comply with the Act. This can ensure that insurance requirements are met.

Members are more organized and coordinated during fire fighting operations.

A trained and equipped team (22 members) are available at a **minimum tariff** to assist in fire prevention (preparing fire breaks, carry out of controlled bums and fuel reduction operations like alien invasive species clearing operations and fire fighting operations (**tariffs are below minimum wage tariffs**);

Regular communication improves awareness levels that will decrease accidental wildfires;

Various training and capacity building opportunities for members and their staff;

Assistance for members regarding the process of applying for exemption to move fire breaks away from property boundaries. ;



Institutions like RSA Agri, Agri Western Cape and Insurance companies support and in some cases require active participation in FPA's.

HACCP, GLOBALGAP en IPW accreditation requires membership (membership certificates are available on request).

### Fire Fighting Operations

The **GCFPA are not a fire fighting organisation**, the core business is to scientifically plan the area, development and assist with the implementation of management strategies to reduce risk and to develop capacity and coordination in a specific area. Fire fighting operations are according to the Fire Brigade Services Act the responsibility of the various District Municipalities (West Coast and Cape Winelands) depending in which area your property is situated. Activities within the GCFPA are focus to reduce intensive and expensive fire fighting operations.

*West Coast DM (022 4338825/6) Fire fighting is free with no cost.*

*Cape Winelands DM (021 8874446) Fire fighting operations are delivered with an associated cost irrespectively of membership status to the GCFPA.*

*\*Aerial fire fighting – could only be called upon by the fire chief – otherwise the member will be responsible to settle the account.*

### Cost

Joining fee R300 (*once off)	
Annual fee depending on the size of the property	
51ha and less = R300	51-500 ha = R500
500 – 2025ha = R850	More than 2025ha = R0.42 per hektaar

Once you completed and submit the application form you will receive a invoice with a membership identification number from our audit firm. Please ensure that this is paid within 30 days of receiving the invoice.

**Contact details – GCBBV**, Charl du Plessis, P.O.Box 454, Porterville, 6820, 079 17 24340, 086 608 8304 (faks) en [charldu1@gmail.com](mailto:charldu1@gmail.com)