

Legislation on fire management.

It is an offence in terms of the Forestry Act chapter 19:05 and statutory 7 of 2007 Environmental Management Agency (environmental impact assessment and ecosystems protection) regulations, 2007, if an owner fails taking the necessary steps to prevent a fire.



Remember, It Is an Offence also;

For a land user, owner or designated authority to fail to put in place standard fire guards of at least 9m on their land;

To intentionally start a fire and leave it unattended;

To start a fire outside residential or commercial premises during the period 31 July to 31 October;

For a landowner to deliberately fail to extinguish a fire on his/her property;

To refuse to participate in extinguishing a fire which occurs within your vicinity;

For a land user, land owner, designated authority, traditional leader or councilor to fail to investigate and document the causes of a fire and the extent of damage within seven days;

To start or assist in the starting of a fire.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Parks and Wildlife Management Authority



In harmony with nature

For cases of human wildlife conflict don't hesitate to call the cell numbers below

Head Office (Mrs Tom) 0772111835	Ngezi – Kwekwe (Mutyasira C) 0778928532
Harare Cluster (Zhou K) 0773706401	Nyanga (Mashava J) 0774249463
Hwange Cluster (Tibha L) 0712310321	SEL- Masvingo (Chikoto W) 0772652638
Matopo- Bulawayo (Siakanoka S) 0712959084	Sebungwe – Gokwe (Mpofu R) 078329018
Mid Zambezi-Chinhoyi (Makaza) 0774801096	Kariba (Tiba L) 0773045961
Victoria Falls (Muleya M) 0773601272	

FIRE MANAGENT

PARKS AND WILDLIFE



In harmony with nature

Tel: +263(242)7076225-8

FIRE MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR WILDLIFE PRODUCERS

Introduction

Wild fires are a common feature during dry season throughout the rural Zimbabwe. These fires cause a severe reduction in wildlife habitat and production thereby affecting wildlife based activities such as tourism (consumptive and non-consumptive) e.g. trophy hunting and photographic safaris. Finally this will reduce a wildlife producer's revenue which is critical for the management of wildlife areas. On the other hand total protection of the vegetation from fire can lead to unproductiveness of the farm as old grass become unpalatable to wildlife due to anti-nutritional factors like lignin, therefore the need of fire management for effective wildlife production.

Effects of unplanned fires to a wildlife producer.



Fire is an important management tool but it can cause devastating loss if not properly planned by the wildlife producer. **Remember a yard that takes food for wildlife...lacks wildlife, so plan adequately for the fire season.**

Causes of veld fires

- Lightning (natural cause).
- Lighting of fires on road sides by travellers waiting for transport.
- Children playing with matches.
- Improper household ash disposal.
- Smoking (reckless disposal of stubs after smoking)
- Cooking (forgetting to extinguish fire after cooking at an open area)
- Honey collection (smoking bees)
- illegal hunting (caused by poachers)
- Field/land preparation



Fire prevention measures by wildlife producers or communities



Construct a fireguard around your farm which should be 9m wide on boundaries and internal fireguards should be 4.5m wide. Fireguards can be constructed using some of these; ox drawn plough, tractors, disking, hoeing, grading depending on the size of your wildlife property and capacity.

Trained fire- fighting teams should be formed in farms

and communities.

Farms or communities should put in place fire alert systems e.g. drums, bell, whistles for informing neighbors.



Always inspect your fire-guard for any fire agents.

Ensure that fire-fighting equipment is in place and

ready e.g. fire beaters, fire blowers, knapsack sprays.

Sprayers should always be filled with water during the fire season.

NB: A fireguard will help protect your farm from external fires thereby protecting your wildlife

When should the fireguards should be constructed.

Fire season starts from the 31st of July to the 31st of October each year.

Therefore the fireguards should be done before the end of June each year/

Fire breaks should be completed by 15 June each year.

Controlled burning should be completed by 15 July.



Use of a Motorised grader to construct a fireguard in Hwange National Park.