



FREE STATE UMBRELLA FPA VRYSTAAT SAMBREEL BBV

CORPORATE PROFILE OF THE FREE STATE UMBRELLA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998 (NVFFA) is to safeguard communities, the economy and environment from uncontrolled veld, forest and mountain fires (wildfires) throughout the Republic.

The Free State Umbrella FPA is a provincial association formed in terms of section 4(9) of the Act and is representative of various fire protection associations, the provincial disaster management centre and regionally represented landowner organisations who wish to organise for the purpose of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act No. 101 of 1998.

PURPOSE OF THE ASSOCIATION

FSUFPA Vision: FSUFPA aims, through excellence in education and representation, to promote the protection of life, assets, and the environment from veld & forest fires, inclusive of other related emergencies.

FSUFPA Mission: To promote an efficient system that supports the activities of all landowners and land users in the execution of their duties as set out in the NVFFA and is consistent with the provisions of the NVFFA, the Disaster Management Act, and other relevant legislation. Cooperating with all governments, corporate and community organizations for the continuous improvement in standards, legislation, education, products and services.

FSUFPA Values: The values that guide the association are;

- Integrity — behaving ethically, acting with loyalty and honesty, and being prepared to express our views.
- Independence — being prepared to establish alliances, build trust, and foster cooperation without showing favour.
- Professionalism — an ongoing commitment to the continuous improvement in the delivery of quality fire protection services and standards.

Duties And Functions of The Umbrella Association

1. The FSUFPA is tasked with looking after the overarching interests of the FPA's in the Free State (FS)
2. The Umbrella will represent, all its members within the FS Province.
3. Strategic policy and planning for the common area administered by several FPA's, e.g. for prescribed burning, common standards, common rules, joint fire preparedness and response plans, and the protection of common assets.
4. Liaison and co-ordination with the provincial and local disaster management centers.
5. Communicating fire danger ratings to FPA's and others
6. Weather data collection for improvements to the predictions from the NFDRS [National Fire Danger Rating System], and collection and dissemination of other relevant data and information
7. Providing input data for fire danger ratings on behalf of its FPA's, such a veld curing information. (the rate at which veld dries)
8. Training, in cases where training is not provided by the training industry
9. Communication to landowners and the public regarding veldfire management in the FS area
10. Supply of fire incident command specialists or support and co-ordination between FPA's and other firefighting agencies in escalating fire conditions
11. Assistance to members where court cases arise, such as providing expert witness, and statistical and weather information.
12. Facilitating mutual aid agreements (between parties within the umbrella association)



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13. Management and maintenance of aerial support services
14. Co-ordination functions, such co-ordination of equipment and other resources between members and individual FPA's, through such measures as mutual assistance agreements and the standard operating procedures they contain.
15. The FSUFPA Advisory Forum will facilitate the strategic distribution and allocation of available resources within the FS Province.
16. Overall strategic direction and planning, including the contributions to local disaster management plans
17. Liaising with Working on Fire.
18. The Executive Officers will represent the Province on the WoF Implementing meeting as well as at the National Veld and Forest Advisory Forum (NVFFAF)
19. Lobbying for funding
20. Facilitating and establishing of membership fees for non-FPA Provincial Member institutions eg ESCOM, SANRAL, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LAND REFORM, and other related members.
21. Inform its members of equipment and technology available for preventing and fighting veld and forest fires.
22. Exercise the powers and duties delegated to them by the minister.
23. Monitor and evaluate performance of member FPA's and give guidance and assistance where necessary.
24. Provide a strategy for agreed mechanisms for the co-ordination of actions with adjoining fire protection associations in the event of a fire crossing boundaries. (drafting of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Standing Operating Procedures (SOP)
25. Make rules that binds its members.

Key Strategic Objectives

- Resizing of FPA's to form 4 District and 3 Regional FPA's aligned with Municipal Boundaries.
- Facilitate effective implementation of Integrated Wildfire Management Practices on local, district and provincial level.
- Ensuring the highest level of legislative, functional and governance compliance of member FPA's
- Capacitation of district and regional FPA's through skills development, technical support, and innovation.

MEMBERS AND BENEFICIARIES

The Free State Umbrella Fire Protection Association (FSUFPA) as representative of various fire protection associations, the provincial disaster management centre and regionally represented landowner organisations who wish to organise for the purpose of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act. FSUFPA is the primary operational structure that provides support to its members and the provincial disaster management structures relating to integrated Wildfire Management in the Province. To this effect FSUFPA is recognised as a Provincial Umbrella FPA by DFFE (formerly DAFF) and mandated by the PDMC to fulfil certain functions and provide certain services to the PDMC that includes:

- Provision of relevant training
- Development of Operational Standards and best practice guidelines
- Investigate and advise on new equipment and techniques that can assist with wildfire management
- Provincial Resource Coordination and Allocation
- Provide operational information to relevant stakeholders during fire season
- Liaise and engage with all relevant stakeholders pertaining to integrated wildfire management
- Provide the PDMC advisory forum with information regarding wildfire incidents and developments in the FS province.
- Advise Disaster Management structures on a local district and provincial level on matters pertaining integrated wildfire management.
- Assess and report on the level of functionality and compliance of FPA's in the province.



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FSUFPA facilitates meaningful and sustainable participation in collaborative decision-making processes regarding the practical implementation of IFM by SOE's, district and regional FPA's, regional landowners and major IFM stakeholders on a provincial level. FSUFPA provides practical support where FPA's are technically absent while extended membership to FSUFPA affiliated FPA's provides SOE's and regional landowners a way to comply with various aspects of the Public Finance Management as well as the National Veld and Forest Fire Acts. FSUFPA also provides access to provincial structures, resources, and fire management systems like FIDIMAPS that directly contributes to improved risk reductions and increased compliance with applicable sections of the NVFFA.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

FSUFPA is a registered non-profit company and is subject to the provisions of the Companies Act of 2008. Additionally, the association is also registered as a NPO with the Department of Social Development as per the NPO Act of 1997. To this effect FSUFPA has a board of directors that has a high level of expertise and are representative of the stakeholders impacted by the activities of the association as per the King 3 Code. The current board consists of:

Dr. Johannes Belle (UFS DimTec)	Mr. Johann "Savage" Breytenbach (Mangaung FPA)
Mr. Pieter Kemp (Vaal Eden FPA)	Me. Antoinette Jini (Ex Officio GM WoF Free State)
Mr Markes Butler (Ex Officio Head of Centre PDMC)	Mr. Jan De Villiers (Imperani FPA)
Mr. Reynie Barnard (Corporate Members)	Dr. Thabiso Mokotjomela (SANBI)

The Executive Committee is appointed by the board and consist of a General Manager, and two Operations Managers and is supported by the Provincial Wildfire Advisory Forum. The Advisory Forum is an operational forum chaired by FSUFPA that exclusively deals with veldfire operational matters and is recognised by the PDMC Advisory Forum as a ProfSAC subforum. The Provincial Wildfire Forum consists of the following delegates:

1. ESKOM Distribution
2. ESKOM Transmission
3. Transnet
4. Roads Incident Management System Free State (RIMS FS)
5. National Department Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development: Directorate Property Management
6. Department Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environment (DESTEA Reserves)
7. Free State Department Agriculture, Land Reform & Rural Development: Disaster Management
8. Department Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE): Directorate Forestry Oversight
9. Mangaung FPA (MAFPA)
10. Imperani Fire Protection Association (Sesotho & Mantsopa LM Development FPA)
11. Vaal Eden Fire Protection Association (Fezile Dabi Development FPA)
12. North-eastern Free State FPA (Phumelea & Maluti-A-Phofung LM Development FPA)
13. Bethlehem FPA (Dilabeng & Nketoana LM Development FPA)
14. SANPARKS (Golden Gate)
15. Working on Fire Free State Province
16. All Municipal Fire Services through the Category of Authorized Persons (CAPS)
17. Provincial Disaster Management Centre
18. Fezile Dabi District Municipality Disaster Management Centre
19. Xhariep District Municipality Disaster Management Centre
20. Thabo Mofutsanyane District Disaster Management Centre
21. Lejweleputswa District Municipality Disaster Management
22. Mangaung Metro Disaster Management Centre
23. SA Weather Service: Bloemfontein Meteorological Office
24. Insurance Company Representatives (Regional)