

Tasks and Responsibilities of FPA Structures and Personnel. (Updated 3 February 2021)

National Disaster Management Framework Level 3: Fire Protection Association

The FPA is managed autonomously but is functionally integrated with the Fire Service and should jurisdictionally align with a District or alternatively a region that integrates at least two Local Municipalities within a District to ensure sustainability.

Fire Protection Officer (FPO)

The CFO is the preferred Fire Protection Officer who has operational oversight over the FPA and must ensure the organisation is both functional and compliant in the execution of its duties and tasks. As the CEO of the FPA, an FPO is responsible for the day-to-day running of the FPA dramatically increasing the workload of the CFO. Section 6(7) of the NVFFA provides that the FPO may delegate some of his or her powers or functions with the exception of the powers to search, seize or arrest.

FPA Manager

The FPO may delegate some of his or her responsibilities to an FPA Manager, effectively making the FPA Manager responsible for the day-to day management of the FPA without the responsibility of enforcement.

FPA Secretary

FPA documents may at any time be used as evidence in civil litigations or in criminal proceedings, requiring an effective and reliable administration system. The FPA Secretary must assist the FPA manager and the FPO with maintaining the integrity of the FPA administrative system.

National Disaster Management Framework Level 4: Fire Management Area (FMA)

A Fire Management Area is a localised area that may correspond with local Municipal or other jurisdictional borders and consists of multiple sectors. FMA's are managed by an FMA Coordinator.

FMA Coordinator Official Delegation of Powers

The FMA Coordinator must be a member of the Fire Services Reserve Force as per Section 6A of the Fire Brigade Services Act. The FMA Coordinator appointment as a Fire Service Reservist to be done by the controlling authority or the CFO in line with Section 6A(2) and 6A(3). Such appointment will provide the FMA Coordinator with the legal powers as per Section 8 of the Fire Brigade Services Act enabling the FMA Coordinator to better perform his or her tasks or duties.

The following actions must take place on FMA level:

1. Submission of Annual Sector Risk and Resource Maps
2. Planning of Controlled burning projects like Fire Belt Production and Fuel Load Management Projects
3. Implementation of Fire Incident Action Plans
4. Local Resource Management and Dispatching
5. Reporting of Fire Incidents to CFO/FPO and or FPA Manager
6. Initiating Escalation Protocols and External Resource Requesting
7. Managing Expanding Incidents
8. Official Fire Incident Reporting
9. FDI Notifications
10. Burn Permit Recommendations
11. Sector Leader Liaising
12. NVFFA compliance monitoring

The FMA Coordinator has the following responsibilities:

1. Supervise Submission of Sector Risk Maps
2. Coordination of Controlled Burn Projects
3. Initiate Extended Attack Protocols
4. Requisition of External Resources
5. Expanding Incident IC
6. Dispatching of Local Area Resources
7. Submission of Fire Incident Reports
8. Fire Incident Notification to CFO/FPO or FPA Manager
9. Distribution of FDI Notifications and Prohibitions
10. Burn Permit Recommendation
11. Issuance of Compliance Notices

National Disaster Management Framework Level 5: Sector

A Sector is the smallest geographical area where Community Based Wildfire Management can take place and is managed by a Sector Leader.

Sector Leader Official Delegation of Powers

The Sector Leader must be a member of the Fire Services Reserve Force as per Section 6A of the Fire Brigade Services Act. The Sector Leader appointment as a Fire Service Reservist to be done by the controlling authority or the CFO in line with Section 6A(2) and 6A(3). Such appointment will provide the Sector Leader with the legal powers as per Section 8 of the Fire Brigade Services Act enabling the Sector Leader to better perform his or her tasks or duties.

The following actions must take place on Sector level: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Annual Sector Risk and Resource Mapping2. Making of Communal Fire Belts3. Coordination of Prescribed Burns (Fuel Load Management)4. Detection and Reporting of Fires5. Initial Fire Suppression Actions6. Incident Assessment and Reporting7. FPA Liaison with Land Users8. Non-Compliance Reporting	The Sector Leader has the following responsibilities: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Compiling annual sector risk and resource map2. Coordinating the construction of communal Fire Belts3. Initiation of Fire Response Plan4. Reporting all fire incidents to the FMA Coordinator5. Initial Attack IC6. Assessment of incident severity and initiation of escalation protocols.7. Fire Management Communications to/from Land Users8. Compliance Evaluations
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Volunteer Wildland Firefighters

Section 17 (1) of the NVFFA makes landowners responsible to have available equipment and trained personnel to extinguish any veldfire that may start or spread from their land while Section 18(1)(b) also compels landowners to actively prevent the spread of fires from land under their control. Should the owner not be able to prevent the spreading of the fire additional resources must be dispatched to assist the landowner.

Establishment of a specialised Volunteer Wildland Firefighter Component as per Section 58(5)(b) of the National Disaster Management Act will accomplish the following:

- Improve Incident Safety Standards
- Increased Personal Safety
- IOD and Equipment Insurance for Volunteers
- Enable Effective Resource Management
- Improve Quality of Response
- Capacitate ICS Implementation
- Improve Suppression Operation Effectiveness
- Decrease Operational Costs