



FIRE AWAY NEWSLETTER

November 2023

www.winelandsfpa.co.za

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Foreword from Ashley Bauer (Chairperson)

Dear members, stakeholders and partners

I would like to thank my board, our FPO, our manager, administrative staff and our members for all their contributions and input which drives our Fire Protection Association forward year on year.

This past year we have remained even on our membership numbers, however through financial and operational acumen and initiatives we have ensured a stable financial outlook for the future ensuring our members the absolute best of service and achieving our objectives.

Once again, we have had the opportunity to operate alongside Leading Edge Aviation and the Insurance industry to offer the WFPA QRF (Quick Reaction Force) with resounding success. The deployment strategy, in line with our pre-season planning, Large Scale Initial Attack, along with our partners yielded a successful service whereby most fires reported were contained within the first few hours mitigating multi-day costly fires.

Our partnerships with all stakeholders and role players remain as strong as ever. Regular participation within the Western Cape Umbrella Fire Protection Association (WCUFPA) affords us an opportunity to gain experience and provide input from lessons learned with the other Associations in the province. Our Manager, Dale Nortje, has been appointed as the Vice Chair of the Umbrella and represents the interests of our FPA at the National forum.

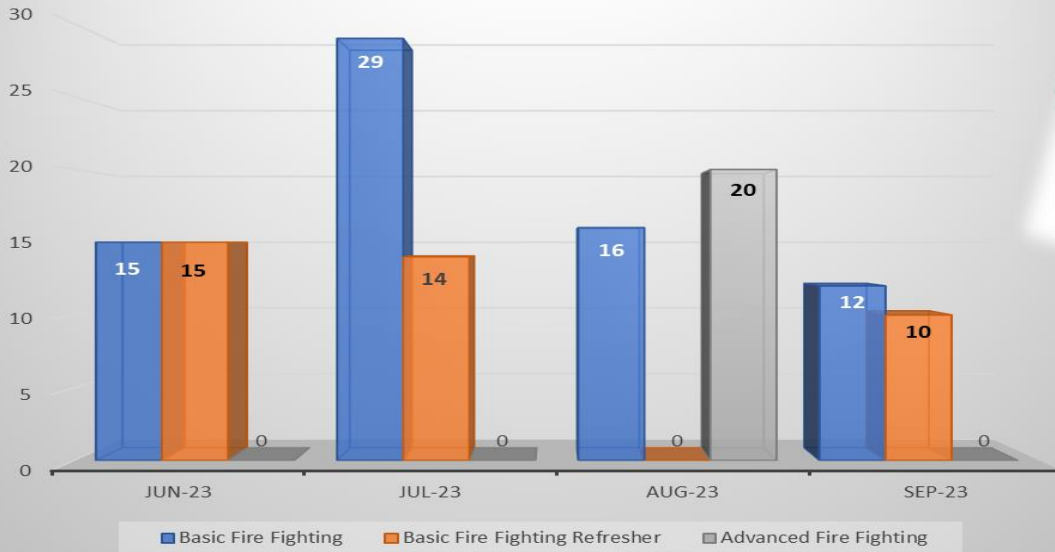
We have achieved success in our mandate to ensure our members are provided with guidance and services to ensure successful integrated management and thus driving fire prevention in the WFPA area. We facilitate fuel reduction, fire break construction and maintenance, Training, QGIS and the administration of burn permits on behalf of the Cape Winelands District fire service.

To all our ward leaders, Fire management unit leaders a great deal of appreciation for the time volunteering to ensure the communications and assistance to our members throughout the year and during the high fire season. With your inputs and dedication operations have concluded successfully

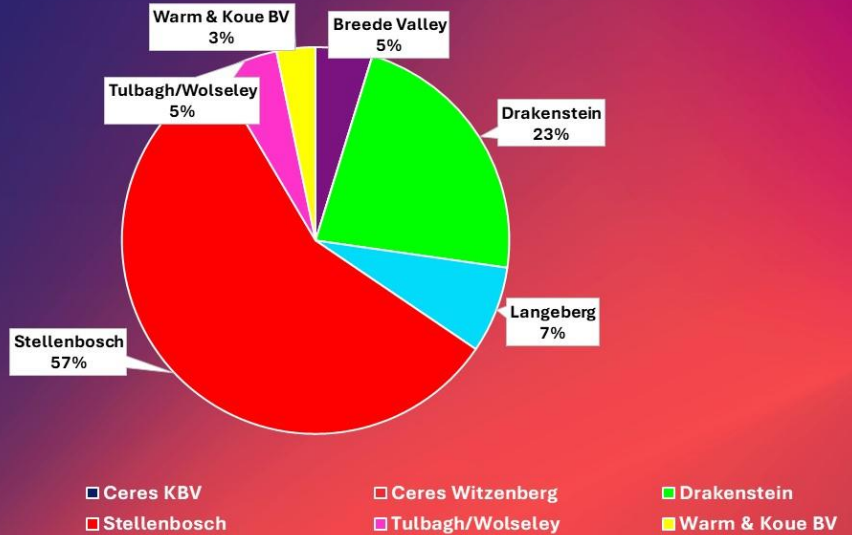
Going forward, further opportunities await us through the coming year. I believe all aspects of our association will get stronger.

Be Safe

Training 2023

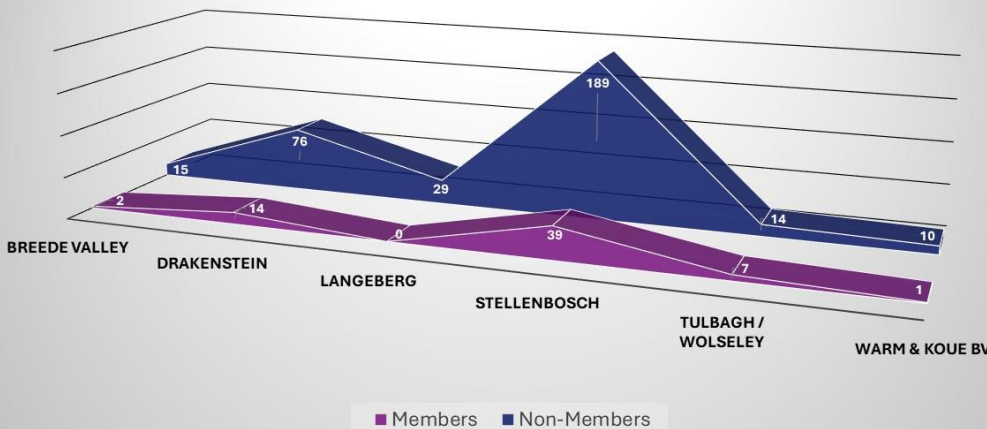


NUMBER OF REPORTED FIRES PER FMU NOVEMBER 2022 / APRIL 2023



- Breede Valley
- Ceres KBV
- Ceres Witzenberg
- Drakenstein
- Langeberg
- Stellenbosch
- Tulbagh/Wolseley
- Warm & Koue BV

FIRES MEMBERS VS NON-MEMBERS NOVEMBER 2022 / APRIL 2023





Did you KNOW?

ARE YOU PREPARED??

- ✓ Please ensure roads are clear and open for fire services to gain access to a fire on your property.
- ✓ Always have a responsible person on or near the property to open gates for the fire services.
- ✓ Report any signs of smoke to the Cape Winelands Fire Services **021 887 4446**.
- ✓ Post pin location and picture of the fire on your WSPA Ward group.

*Wildfire Season
2023/2024*

FPA GUIDELINES FOR MINIMUM EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

PROPERTY SIZE (HA)	< 10	11-50	51-100	101-500	501-1000	1001-5000	5000 +
Bakkie Sakkie Min 200 lt		1	1	1	1	2	3
Water Trailer Min 1000 lt						1	1
Water Tanker Min 2000 lt					1	1	2
Rake Hoes/Slashers			2	5	8	10	15
Beaters	1	4	5	10	12	15	20
Knapsacks Min 15 lt	1	2	3	4	5	8	10
Drip Torch				1	1	2	2
Cell phone			1	1	1	1	2
Hand Held Two-Way Radio				1	2	2	4
Mobile Radio				1	1	2	3
First Aid Kit			1	1	1	2	3
Fire Fighters	2	3	5	8	10	12-20	25 +
Crew Leaders/Landowner		1	1	1	1	2	3 +
Fire Boss			1	1	1	1	2-4

NB: ABOVE ARE MINIMUM GUIDELINES ONLY, and may be revised according to individual property circumstances or FPA FMU requirements.

PPE	Leather Boots	Leather Gloves	Bala-clava	Fire Fighter Helmet	Tee-Shirts (Cotton)	100% Cotton Overall
					****	Yes
Landowners	Yes	Yes	****	****	****	Yes
Nature Conservation	Yes	Yes	Yes	****	Yes	Yes
Forestry	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fire Contractors	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**** Optional



Winelands Fire Protection Association

How to report a fire?

1. Phone the CWDM Fire Services Control Room on **021 887 4446**.
2. Put the location / pin location together with a photo on your ward or FMU WhatsApp group.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS PROCESS IS FOLLOWED EVERY TIME A FIRE IS DETECTED

October	November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire danger moderate to high • Thunderstorms possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire danger high • Hot, dry and windy days • Thunderstorms possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire danger extreme • Hot, dry and windy days • Thunderstorms possible
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burn operations with permit only • Attend FPA FMU or Ward pre-season meetings • Maintenance of fire breaks • Conduct fire preparedness checks and audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No burn operations allowed • Fire awareness, standby and readiness for fire suppression • District Fire Work Group pre-season meeting • Plan ecological block burns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No burn operations allowed • Fire awareness, standby and high state of readiness for fire suppression

January	February	March
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire danger extreme • Hot, dry and windy days • Thunderstorms possible 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire awareness, standby and high state of readiness for fire suppression • No burn operations allowed • Stubble fields and ecological block burns with special burn permit only • Identify possible fire breaks and fuel reduction activities • Attend post fire debrief sessions 		

EXTREME SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE SUMMER CLIMATE CONDITIONS EXPECTED

In June 2023, the onset of El Niño climate conditions in the Pacific ocean was noted by meteorologists for the first time in 7 years. This doesn't bode well for the approaching southern hemisphere summer, with predictions by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) of a 90% probability of a moderate-strength El Niño event occurring during the second half of 2023.

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/world-meteorological-organization-declares-onset-of-el-ni%C3%B1o-conditions>

Interviewed in The Guardian, Associate Prof Sarah Perkins-Kirkpatrick, a climate scientist at the University of New South Wales Canberra focused on heatwaves, spoke about the impact of supercharged northern hemisphere heatwaves on Australia's 2023 summer. "If we have an El Niño supercharged by climate change, then we could be in for a very bad summer," Perkins-Kirkpatrick says."

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2023/jul/19/what-do-the-supercharged-northern-hemisphere-heatwaves-mean-for-the-australian-summer>

Given that South Africa shares the same hemisphere, we can expect to face similar conditions over the rest of the year and into 2024.

**We will be placing important notices and information on
all our social platforms:**

WhatsApp Groups ([Per FMU](#))

Website (www.winlandsfpa.co.za)

Facebook Page ([Winlands Fire Protection Association](#))

Make sure to stay informed!!

COMMUNITY News



NCC Wildfires is with Ashley Bauer and 4 others.

October 27 at 11:15 AM · 🌐

#ICStraining

NCC Environmental Services, on behalf of the [Western Cape Government](#), developed and presented the [National Wildfire Coordinating Group / Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) based Planning Section Chief course at [Durbanville Conference Centre](#) from the 16th to 19th October.

This course was presented to various local, district, provincial and national agencies, many of whom have never worked together.

We were very fortunate to have the very experienced and highly qualified [Rob Gump](#) (Type 1 PSC) out of the USA as the lead instructor.

These courses are not just theoretical, as each day there were numerous locally based scenarios that the students had to work through applying what they had just learnt. Using Rob's experience and that of many of the local participants, these experiences and newly acquired knowledge was put to the test in solving the issues raised in these all-hazard scenarios.

If you missed out on this course or any of the other courses we offer, don't worry, we will be offering these and other courses in the near future.



NCC Wildfires is with Amanda Willett and 12 others at [Ebb and Flow Wilderness](#).

November 7 at 9:18 AM · George · 🌐

#IncidentManagementTeamTraining

After many months of preparation and initial IMT position specific training, [NCC Environmental Services](#) presented another very successful Incident Management Team Scenario Based Training Exercise on behalf of the [Western Cape Government](#)

This exercise is based on the [National Wildfire Coordinating Group S-420](#) course (adapted to our circumstances) and is designed to prepare participants to function effectively as members of the Command and General Staff in a Complex Incident Management Team (IMT).

Participants took part in facilitated discussions and exercises during a simulated incident. In this case it was a wildfire in the Wilderness Area. The basis for this simulation was the [Hoekwil and Touwsrante Pre-Attack plan](#), also developed for the [Western Cape Government](#) on behalf of the [Garden Route District Municipality](#). This resource was extremely valuable in making the scenario more realistic and the information listed on the Pre-Attack Plan guided the participants with relevant and actual data.

This is the fourth time the IMT Scenario Based Training Exercise (SBTE) has been completed in the Western Cape, each time prepared and presented by NCC. This time two IMT were put through their paces using the same scenario. This means that more people could be assessed, and these individuals will bolster the ranks of IMT C&G for actual all-hazard incidents within their agencies or as a member of a higher level IMT's within the province.



Many of the participants with open Position Task Books, could get further sign off on their competencies during this exercise.

We were privileged to have participants from a range of governmental and private sector organisations and agencies.

The SBTE was designed and developed by Dean Ferreira who with the assistance of retired [City of Cape Town](#) Chief Fire Officer, Ian Schnetler, led the course as lead instructors. They were supported by cadre from [Western Cape Government](#), [South African National Parks](#) and [Knysna Municipality](#)

There were three City of Cape Town Fire and Rescue Services Training Assessors who were assessing three positions for [International Fire Service Accreditation Congress \(IFSAC\)](#) accreditation. These positions will receive accreditation from IFSAC if they successfully met the requirements. These three [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#) 1026 positions are:

- Planning Section Chief
- Situation Unit Leader
- Logistics Section Chief

The exercise tested the participants Incident Command System (ICS) knowledge and skills in the roles they were placed in. By the end of the exercise all participants knew what was expected of them. In the event of a live incident, they are now better prepared to work as part of an IMT.

Friendships have been made and organisational barriers are being chipped away.

Thanks to SANParks for hosting the exercise in Wilderness at their Ebb and Flow Facility.

We look forward to hosting the next IMT SBTE in 2024.



The Cape Winelands District Municipality's Fire Services has taken delivery of their state-of-the-art, custom-designed mobile Incident Command Bus today.

The simplistic design with a modernised workspace will allow for all partners of CWDM and role-players to gather within an easily accessible vehicle, to predict, plan and initiate mitigation actions in response to major incidents that poses a threat to community and property.



Wildland fire nightmares vs knowledge, safety and preparation: The constant battle



ATTENTION: Your own safety and the survival of your property can be at risk and only you can do something about it. Fire is a major natural force, not to be underestimated. We have seen it every season and it escalates. Knowledge is to know the **WHEN, WHY, WHERE, WHO** and **HOW**. Safety is to prepare yourselves and your property to fight this battle and go home to tell the story. This is about doing the things right by doing the right things, like joining forces (FPAs), adhering to the safety standards, rules and safety laws, applying the FireWise principles. Do your risk analysis and identify the potential hotspots and mitigate the situation before the situation is on hand.

2023

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family! May this time of the year be truly blissful and enjoyable to all of us! Stay blessed!

*WFPA Management
& Staff*