

## **APPENDIX 1: DEFINITION OF TERMS**

**Act:** the National Veld and Forest Fire Act no. 101 of 1998.

**Backburn:** a fire ignited along the inner edge of a control line to consume the fuel in the path of a wildfire.

**Direct attack:** any treatment of burning fuel, for example, by beating, wetting, smothering, or chemical quenching, or by physically separating the burning from the unburned fuel.

**Fire behaviour:** the manner in which a fire reacts to the variables of fuel, weather and topography.

**Fire control line:** a natural or constructed barrier used in fire suppression and prescribed burning to limit the spread of veldfire.

**Fire danger** The resultant of all factors that determine whether fires start, spread, and do damage and whether and to what extent they can be controlled.

**Fire danger index** A relative number denoting an evaluation of rate of spread, or suppression difficulty for specific combinations of fuel, fuel moisture and wind speed.

**Fire prevention** All activities concerned with minimising the incidence of wildfire, particularly that of human origin.

**Fire Protection Association:** an association registered in terms of Chapter 2 of the Act for the purposes of predicting, preventing, managing and extinguishing veldfires.

**Fire Protection Officer:** a person who performs the function of chief executive officer of a Fire Protection Association, appointed in terms of Section 5 of the Act.

**Fire suppression:** the activities connected with restricting the spread of wildfire following its detection and making it safe.

**Flame length:** the length of flames measured along the convective path from the ground surface.

**Head fire:** that portion of a fire edge with the greatest rate of forward spread.

**Prescribed burning:** the controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned management objectives.

**Preparedness** All activities undertaken in advance of wildfire occurrence to decrease wildfire area and severity and to ensure more effective fire suppression\*.

**Prescribed burning:** the controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.

**Prohibited period:** the period of the year during which a permit is required to light, use or maintain fires in the open air.

**Rate of spread:** the rate of advance of the head of the fire (equivalent to rate of forward spread).

**Readiness and response plan** A plan outlining desirable levels of readiness of personnel, systems and equipment and their locations and availability for the detection and control of wildfire.

**Veldfire:** a veld, forest or mountain fire, where veld means the open countryside beyond the urban limit or homestead boundary.