

FIRE SAFETY FOR INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND BACKYARD DWELLINGS



WHAT MAKES FIRES SPREAD FASTER?

There are many factors that influence how fast fires will spread through an informal settlement or suburb. By understanding these you can identify higher risk areas that you can avoid.

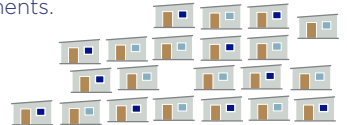
WIND

Strong winds will make fires move much quicker. Small burning embers are blown over obstacles (e.g., walls, rivers, roads) and cause spot fires.



DENSITY AND SPACING OF HOMES

Fires move very quickly through areas where homes are close together. People cannot escape easily from dense settlements.



SLOPE

Fires spread much faster uphill than down.



MATERIALS

Thin items ignite quickly. Plastic sheets on roofs, curtains, rubbish bags outside, cardboard linings and newspaper pushed into holes provide a route for fires into homes.



MOISTURE

During dry seasons and droughts fires spread faster. However, many smaller fires occur in wet weather from indoor cooking and heating.



**CALL 112 FROM YOUR CELL IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY
#BESAFE THIS FESTIVE SEASON**



Western Cape
Government
FOR YOU

Human Settlements