

# OUTDOOR FIRE SAFETY

**Open fires can quickly become uncontrolled fires in the Western Cape. It is not a good idea to start a fire when weather conditions are hot, dry and windy.**

**Also note that open fires are prohibited on certain days. Make a habit of checking the daily “fire danger” rating through your local fire protection association or fire department before deciding to make an open fire.**

## **Braai safety tips**

Children should never be allowed to start a gas or wood braai or play near the braai area.

Keep a braai well away from any surrounding vegetation or flammable materials or structures, as well as children and pets.

Protect yourself by wearing a heavy apron and an oven mitt that fits high up over your forearm.

Always wear short sleeve shirts or roll sleeves up when controlling a braai.

Never use a braai indoors; besides the danger of causing a fire in your home, it can also cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

Never use a flammable liquid (e.g. petrol or paraffin) to start a braai. Only use paper, kindling or regular grade firelighters bought from the shops.

Never consider using any kind of fuel to reignite or build up a fire.

Soak the coals with water before you discard them.

When dealing with a gas braai, always store the gas cylinder outside; ensure that the valve is not leaking and that it is properly turned off when not in use.

Before lighting a gas braai, check all connections with soapsuds (use a soap and water solution). If bubbles appear at any connection when opening the valve, a qualified LP gas specialist should repair the leak before use.

## **Campfire safety tips**

Use designated fireplaces and facilities in parks and recreation sites - they are designed to reduce the chance of your fire spreading.

Children must never be allowed to make a fire without adult supervision.

Never leave a burning or smouldering outdoor fire unattended.

Never use candles, matches or gas stoves in a tent; it can burn within minutes trapping its occupants inside.

Place your tent upwind and well away from a fire.

Outside of parks and recreation sites, build your fire on rock, clay or sand.

Clear an area of at least 5 metres, away from tents, vegetation and other flammable materials.

Build the fireplace downwind, away from your tent and dig a pit surrounded by rocks.

Have a large container of water and a spade close by.

When leaving the site or going to sleep, soak the fire with water and stir sand into the ashes or coals until every spark is out.

Be careful of the hot steam and splashes when the water comes into contact with the hot coals.

## **Wildfire emergency services**

In Cape Town call: 107 from your landline, or 021 4807700 from your cell phone.

In the Cape Winelands District call: 021 8874446.

In the West Coast District call: 022 4338700.

In the Overberg District call: 028 4251690.

In the Eden District call: 044 8055071.

In the Central Karoo District call: 023 4142603.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

From your landline:

**10177**

From your cellphone:

**112**