

Fire Management Planning Guide

Fire Management Plan(FMP) Template

This document is intended as a guide document and not prescriptive in any way.

Purpose of an FMP -- The fire management planning process and requirements may differ among agencies. However, for all agencies, a common purpose of a fire management plan is to provide decision support to aid managers in making informed decisions. The FMP includes a concise summary of information organized by fire management unit (FMU) or units.

The fire management plan also contains strategic and operational elements that describe how to manage applicable components such as; response to unplanned ignitions, hazardous fuels and vegetation management, burned area emergency stabilization and rehabilitation, prevention, community interactions and collaborative partnerships roles, and monitoring and evaluation programs.

Purpose of the Interagency Fire Management Template-- The purpose of the interagency fire management plan template is to provide a framework to facilitate cooperation across administrative boundaries. The FMP has different detail depending upon area complexities, agency need and direction.

1. Introduction

The intent of this chapter is to introduce the reader to the area covered by the FMP. State the reasons for developing the FMP. Provide a general description of location of the area covered by the FMP with vicinity map and agencies involved. Briefly describe land ownership, significant resources, mission or direction for the area and different management areas (e.g. fynbos, agricultural, natural or commercial forest, and urban interface) for agencies participating in the planning effort.

2. Policy and Partnerships

The intent of this chapter is to establish the linkage between higher level planning documents, legislation and policies and the actions described in the document.

2.1 Fire Policy

Identify sources of guidance and direction that relate to actions described in the FMP. These include: interagency and departmental policy (e.g. departmental manuals), agency specific policies (e.g. manuals, strategic plans), and bylaws

2.2 Land/Resource Management Planning (LMP)

Identify documents that relate to the area covered by the FMP including interagency efforts. Examples include: land management plans, comprehensive conservation plans

2.3 Partnerships

Identify any internal and external fire management partnerships or planning teams that helped you develop this FMP. This information documents the level of cooperation occurring.

3. Fire Management Unit Characteristics

The intent of this chapter is to articulate specific objectives, practices and considerations common to all FMUs and unique to individual FMUs.

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The primary purpose of developing FMUs in fire management planning is to assist in organizing information in complex landscapes. The process of creating FMUs divides the landscape into smaller geographic areas to more easily describe physical and social characteristics. The following sections provide guidance on what to include in this chapter.

3.1 Area-wide Management Considerations

The intent of this section is to document overall veld fire management program guidance and characteristics common to all FMUs. Describe fire management related goals, objectives, standards, guidelines, and/or desired future conditions as found in the appropriate LMP(s) that apply across all FMUs. Include fire management related goals that may come from non-fire program areas within the LMP or other planning documents.

3.2 Fire Management Unit --Specific Descriptions

The intent of this section is to describe the characteristics of the FMU. Examples are: Physical description of FMU (e.g. topography, fuel types, special conditions that may result in extreme fire behaviour, access, high value concerns, special areas) jurisdictional boundaries, other values at risk within and adjacent to FMU, previous fire behaviour and weather descriptions

Operational information may be detailed or added as an appendix, such as: Permanent repeater locations, radio frequencies, radio 'dead spots', communication plan, evacuation plan, water fill sites and helicopter landing spots.

4. Veld Fire Operational Guidance

The intent of this chapter is to document the procedures used in the area covered by the FMP to implement the veld fire management program.

4.1 Appropriate Management Response

Describe procedures that should be in place for planning and responding to fires. Procedures to be included are dependent on local and interagency agency needs. Examples include:

- preparedness (including training, qualifications, readiness, detection and aviation)
- cooperative or mutual aid fire management agreements
- cost apportionment agreements
- protection agreements
- cross-boundary fire agreements,
- size up, initial response and extended response procedures
- dispatching/obtaining resources (e.g. interagency dispatch centres)
- prioritizing allocation of resources
- large fire cost management
- public interaction and media policies
- reporting requirements

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4.2 Prevention and Education

Describe or reference veld fire prevention and education strategies. Procedures to be included are dependent on local agency needs.

Examples include:

- human caused ignition patterns and problems
- fire investigation policies and procedures
- burn permit systems
- law enforcement procedures and agreements
- community involvement
- education programs
- memorandum of understanding (MOU)

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

The intent of this chapter is to document processes for determining whether the FMP is being implemented as planned and fire-related goals and objectives are being achieved. Information obtained from monitoring and evaluations is used to update the FMP. Describe monitoring processes that will be used to measure achievement of FMP objectives.

Glossary

Include a glossary for common terms. Include full definition for agency or unit specific terminology.

Appendices – Optional