

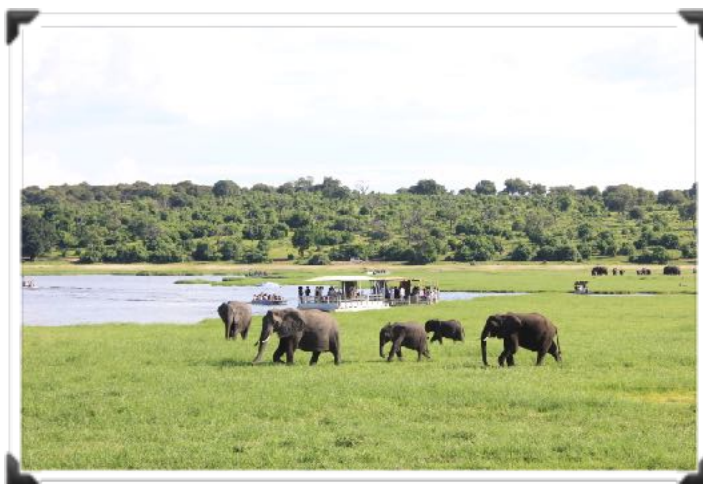


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Welcome to the 1st newsletter of 2018.

We hope everyone was able to have a welcome rest over the festive season.

2018 Looks set to be a challenging year for the KZN FPA, with new challenges which we have been working on for the past few years, finally coming together and ready for implementation.

One of the new changes is the pooling of aircraft into a Provincial pool which will allow more flexibility when the need arises to move aircraft throughout the area.

Another change will be dedicated aircraft for what was our second call group with reciprocity on what was the first call aircraft. This will ensure that the smaller members are able to access their aircraft on a first come first serve basis and will not result in those aircraft being removed from the fire to attend to a first call member.

A Standard Operating Procedure has been drawn up in this regard, and will be circulated with the annual invoicing.

Activities for March.

- 1) Prepare chemical tracers.
- 2) Update contact details of all neighbours.
- 3) Check your radio communication.
- 4) Update road slashing plan.
- 5) Check that water points have adequate supplies.
- 6) Check if all tools conform to FPA standards.
- 7) Train your employees in fire management.
- 8) Do your fire crew members have appropriate ppe.
- 9) Implement plan for firebreak preparation.
- 10) Do you understand the obligations of your insurance warranties?
- 11) Do you understand the legal implications concerning your liability?

Planning for the 2018 fire season.

The provisional placement of aircraft for the 2018 fire season will be as follows:

Shafton:

- 1st June – 31st October x 2 SEATS
- 1st June – 31st October x1 Spotter
- 1st June – 30th September x 2 SEATS
- 1st June – 30th September x 1 Spotter

Riverdale:

- 1st June – 30th September x1 Spotter
- 1st June – 30th September x 2 SEATS

Kwambonambi:

- 1st July – 31st October x 1 Spotter
- 1st July – 31st October x 2 SEATS

Melmoth:

- 1st July – 31st October x 1 Spotter
- 1st July – 31st October x 1 SEAT

Weza:

- 1st July - 30 September 1 x Chopper

Communication:

Please ensure that all analogue radios are correctly programmed as per the list below in order to allow for uninterrupted communication at fires.

- Channel 1: KZNFPFA North
- Channel 2: KZNFPFA South
- Channel 3: FPA Channel FPA to advise.
- Channel 4: WoF Simplex – Red.
- Channel 5: WoF Simplex – Blue.
- Channel 6: WoF Simplex – Green.
- Channel 7: KZNFPFA Simplex.
- Channel 8: Spare
- Channel 9: Spare
- Channel 10: Spare.

Eskom transmission servitude burning protocol.

Burning under Eskom transmission lines and within the Eskom servitudes requires additional preparation to prevent line faults occurring. Proper planning by land owners and Eskom Transmission staff enables Eskom’s National Control to timeously switch out lines in order to prevent line faults (caused by ‘flashovers’). Due to the system constraints it is vital for Eskom Transmission Overhead Lines staff to inform Eskom National Control of planned burns near or under Eskom’s High Voltage power lines at least **2–4 days in advance**. Land owners should apply for burn permits at their relevant FPA and these must be issued and in hand before any burn commences.

Eskom staff must be present at the planned burn in order to manage the risks.

Eskom Transmission Regional staff should also be informed immediately of any unplanned or runaway fires under or in close proximity to any power lines.

What is a flash-over?

The discharge process begins when the local electric field exceeds the breakdown strength of air, about 500kV/mm. Intense ionisation occurs, producing an outward projecting discharge to ground (earth). For example, in the case of sugar cane fires under the line, the bio-mass fire produces pollution and heat which increases the electric field across the conductors and insulators. As a result this electric field becomes powerful enough to become a current-carrying conductor, transferring that energy to ground.

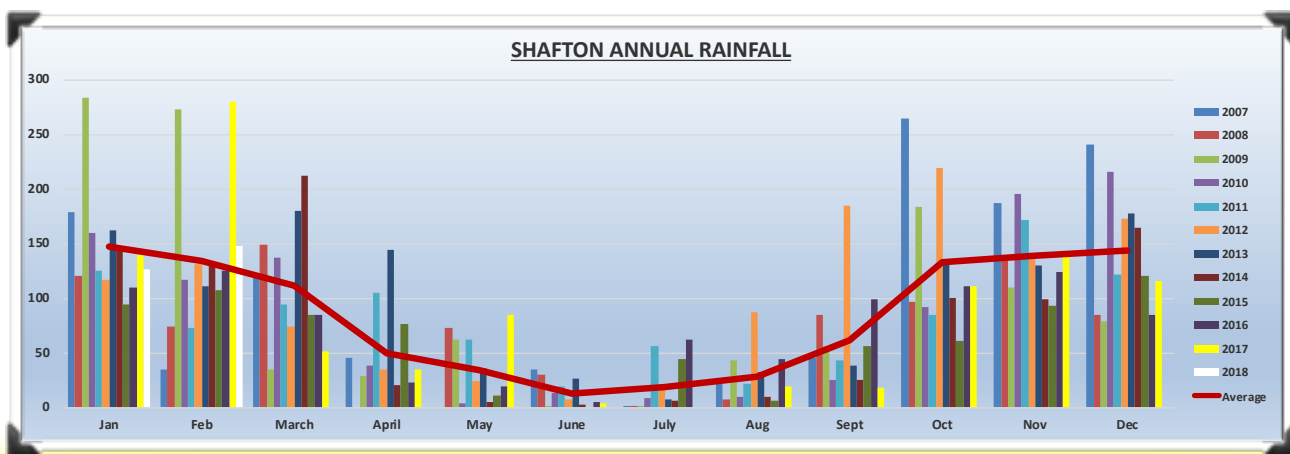
The impact of a line trip (flashover) for the Eskom network AND customers

- Equipment damage,
- Loss of income,
- Property damage due to runaway veld fires,
- Potentially lethal to humans and livestock at electricity strike point to ground



Kwazulu-Natal Province State of Dams on 2018-02-26

Dam	River	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Albert Falls Dam	Mgeni River	26.0	23.5	31.2
Bivane dam	Bivane River	102.0	100.4	100.4
Craigie Burn Dam	Mnyamvubu River	100.4	100.5	79.5
Driel Barrage	Tugela River	98.3	98.3	98.3
Goedertrouw Dam	Mhlatuze River	35.6	35.0	29.3
Hazelmere Dam	Mdloti River	59.3	60.0	94.2
Hluhluwe Dam	Hluhluwe River	101.3	64.2	28.8
Inanda Dam	Mgeni River	63.1	62.6	64.8
Klipfontein Dam	Wit Mfolozi River	100.5	97.7	53.0
Mearns Dam	Mooi River	100.9	103.1	109.3
Midmar Dam	Mgeni River	99.0	97.0	70.6
Nagle Dam	Mgeni River	67.4	67.8	97.8
Ntshingwayo Dam	Ngagane River	89.8	89.0	96.5
Pongolapoort Dam	Phongolo River	37.4	36.4	38.7
Spioenkop Dam	Tugela River	100.5	100.3	101.2
Spring Grove Dam	Mooi River	99.7	96.0	77.7
Wagendrift Dam	Boesmans River	101.8	103.2	103.1
Woodstock Dam	Tugela River	98.6	98.6	100.5
Zaaihoek Dam	Slang River	92.8	92.3	60.0
Total		58.9	57.7	56.4



The Law Relating to Veld & Forest Fires

With the forthcoming KZN fire season just over the horizon, KZN FPA would like to take this opportunity to remind land owners about their legal responsibilities regarding any fires which start on their property. The law relating to veld and forest fires is very clear - if 'your' fire spreads to your neighbour, you are deemed responsible.

We encourage you to read this article in order to refresh your knowledge and to protect your interests in the event of a fire on your property.

Every land owner on whose land a veld fire may start (as a result of refuse pits, angle grinders, welding torches, kids playing with matches, fire breaks, block burning - any cause whatsoever) or burn or from whose land it may spread must have such equipment, protective clothing and trained personnel for extinguishing fires as are:

- prescribed; or
- in the absence of prescribed requirements, reasonably required under the circumstances.

Important points:

- A land owner must ensure that in his or her absence responsible persons are present on or near his or her property who, in the event of a fire, will extinguish the fire or assist in doing so; and take all reasonable steps to alert their neighbours and the relevant fire protection association, if any.
- A land owner may appoint an agent to do all that he or she is required to do in terms of fire break burning.
- A land owner who has reason to believe that a fire on his or her land or the land of an adjoining owner may endanger life, property or the environment, must immediately take all reasonable steps to notify the FPA or Fire Protection Officer and the neighbours; and do everything in his or her power to stop the spread of the fire.
- Any person who has reason to believe that a fire on any land may endanger life, property or the environment, may, together with any other person under his or her control, enter that property or land to which the fire can spread in order to prevent the fire from spreading or to extinguish it.

Act 101 proposed amendments roadshow

DAFF are in the process of a public participation roadshow with regards the proposed amendments to Act 101.

Below is a shell of the dates and times for KZN, and we would like to encourage all interested and affected parties to make an effort to attend:

DAFF Office (Pietermaritzburg)

05/03/2018
08:00

Ulundi
Zululand District
06/03/2018
10:00

Harding
Ugu District
07/03/2018
10:00

Ixopo
Harry Gwala District
08/03/2019
10:00

Pietermaritzburg
uMgungundlovu District
09/03/2018
10:00

The KZN FPA Annual General Meeting will take place at the KZN FPA offices, Shafton Airstrip, on Friday the 13 April 2018 at 13h00.

We would like to encourage all FPA's in KZN to send through any news you may find worth sharing in your area.

It is always good for us to see what is happening out there.

You can send them to me by the last day of the month.