

What can I do in the event of a major fire on the mountain that appears to threaten my home and property?

1. Close all windows and doors to your property to prevent burning embers from entering. Any burning embers should be immediately extinguished.
2. Damp down your garden with the existing garden hose or irrigation system only when there is an immediate threat to your property, as water applied too long before an approaching fire could rapidly evaporate.
3. Evacuate your premises on specific instructions from a firefighter, disaster management officer or police officer.
4. If evacuated, proceed in an orderly manner to a safe area, out of the way of firefighting operations.



EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS
107 or **021 480 7700**
Landline Cellular phone

- Fire Department - **021 590 1900**
www.capetown.gov.za/en/FireAndRescue
- Disaster Risk Management Centre - **080 112 HELP** or **080 911 HELP** (HELP = 4357)
www.capetown.gov.za/disaster
www.capetown.gov.za/fire



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URBAN FRINGE FIRES



Protecting our natural heritage from the ravages of uncontrolled fires

Unplanned and uncontrolled bush and veld fires are dangerous, and threaten lives and properties. During the summer months ranging from early October to late March, valuable, irreplaceable and indigenous flora and fauna are continually threatened by uncontrolled fires. This is a high-risk time, when the southeaster blows at gale force, and temperatures are high. Once an uncontrolled fire is started, the combination of strong winds and dry vegetation makes it extremely difficult to control, especially in the mountainous areas where access is difficult. Many man-hours are required to control and extinguish these types of fires. As a member of the public and concerned citizen, you can do much to prevent these disasters from occurring.

Remember the following, and you could prevent a potential disaster:

1. No fires are allowed in the mountain fringe areas, except in specifically demarcated and pre-authorised areas. If you are unsure, DO NOT make fires.
2. Do not discard your burning cigarette from your vehicle - it is a pollutant, and is one of the major causes of fire. Use your vehicle ashtray for these purposes.
3. Ensure your braai fire is extinguished completely before leaving areas where fires are allowed.
4. Keep ignition sources, i.e. matches and lighters, out of children's reach.
5. Report any instance of fire to the advertised numbers, as indicated in this pamphlet.
6. Comply with the legal requirements for burning veld (as per the City of Cape Town Community Safety Bylaw and National Veld & Forest Act 101 of 1998). Refer to the website www.capetown.gov.za/disaster.

Early warning systems:

The fire danger rating system

- A system has been prepared for determining the risk of fire and the weather conditions that increase that risk.
- The fire danger rating identifies conditions when the risk of veld fires is:
 - extreme;
 - high;
 - moderate; or
 - negligible.
- When the fire danger rating in a region is extreme or high, the Minister must publish a notice in the media.
- If the Minister publishes a notice warning of an extreme or high fire danger in a region, no person may light, use or maintain a fire in the open air in that region.



EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

No fires!

VERY DANGEROUS

No fires!

DANGEROUS

MEDIUM FIRE HAZARD

Take extreme care with controlled burning only permitted with valid permit.

LOW FIRE HAZARD

controlled burning only permitted with valid permit.

Warnings of possible veld fires are normally communicated by your local weather office or Disaster Risk Management Centre. If you think a veld fire might occur in your area, be sure to listen to the radio and/or watch TV regularly.

A warning is only as good as your reaction to it!