

## The Impact of Fires

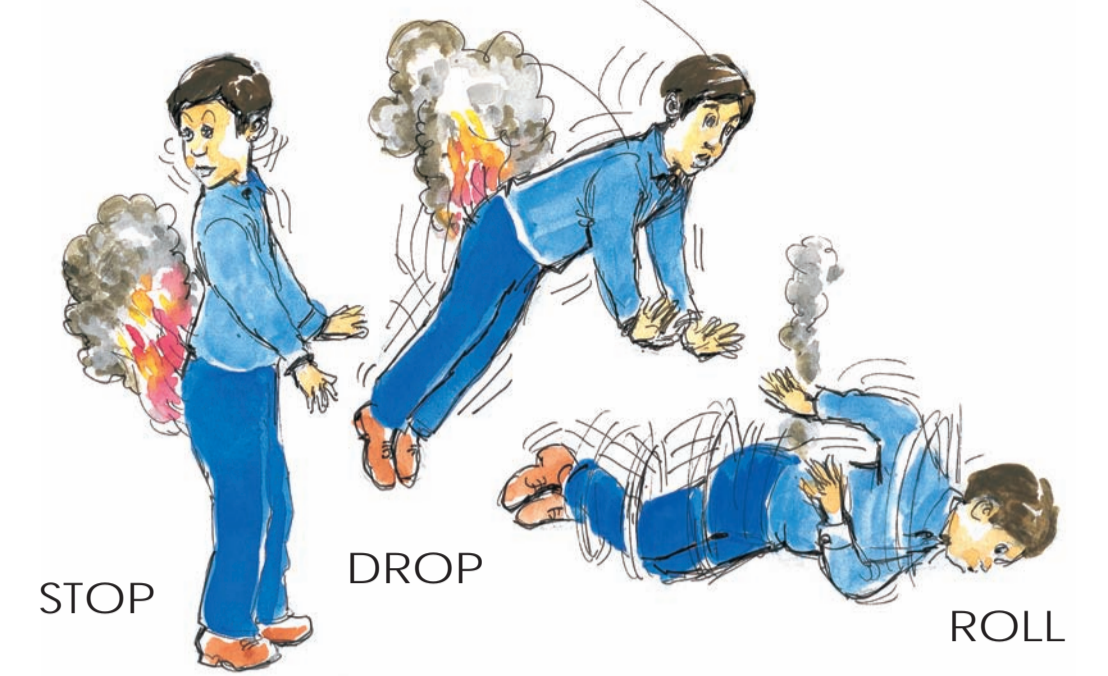


- Loss of grazing, soil erosion, loss of vegetation, grass and biodiversity
- Air Pollution
- Burnt possessions - books, certificates, schools, houses etc.
- Loss of income, jobs

# Fire - Friend or Enemy?



## Fire Safety



COVER AN OPEN FIRE WITH SAND TO SMOTHER IT...



How does your school rate?  
Do you have a Management Plan?

What can you do to prevent a fire?

Crawl low under smoke towards the nearest exit if the building is on fire.



It is very dangerous to start a fire in hot, windy, dry weather.



## FIRE DANGER RATING

	EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. NO FIRES!
	VERY DANGEROUS. NO FIRES!
	DANGEROUS.
	MEDIUM FIRE HAZARD. TAKE EXTREME CARE WITH CONTROLLED BURNING
	LOW FIRE HAZARD. CONTROLLED BURNING ALLOWED WITH CARE



WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY  
PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM  
AGRICULTURE  
PUBLIC WORKS





# Fire - Friend or Enemy?

## A MODEL SCHOOL

- Should have a fence around the perimeter with a firebreak inside
- The lawn must be cut regularly
- The fire escape must be clearly marked
- People should be taught to be calm and orderly in the event of a fire
- A Fire Monitor should be designated, and should be given an arm band, a special cap or a beret, and a whistle to blow in the event of a fire
- Children must get out of the way of firemen, and taken to safety as fast as possible
- Children and staff should be taught basic first aid techniques in case someone's life is at risk
- Children and staff should know what safety measures to take in the event of a fire

How does your school rate?  
Have you got a management plan?  
What can you do to prevent a fire?



## WHAT DOES A FIRE NEED TO BURN?

Fires that are useful are those that we can control. Fires that become out of control are wasteful and destructive. The fire triangle shows us the three factors that are needed for a fire to burn. From that we can derive that we can also put out a fire by taking away one of these factors.

## PREVENTING VELDFIRES

Most wild fires are started by people being careless.

All fires start small! But when the weather is hot, dry and windy a small fire can quickly become a threat to life and property.

Veldfires often start close to the home, and can cause injuries, death and loss of personal belongings. To stop these fires from happening

### DO

- Get rid of hot ash and coal from heating and cooking in a safe place where there is no plant material that can catch alight.
- Cover an open fire with sand to smother it.
- Always work in a open, cleared area when working with power tools. Power tools like angle grinders, welders and chainsaws make sparks which can ignite the surrounding veld.
- Make sure that there are no illegal electrical connections connected or near your home and that electrical appliances are correctly wired. Illegal and faulty electrical connections can get hot and start to burn.
- Keep the area around your home clear of material that can burn, such as firewood, kindling and garbage.

### DON'T

- Burn garbage on a hot and windy day, as the fire can easily spread and cause a wildfire.
- Play with matches!
- Throw away burning cigarette ends!
- Leave an open fire unattended.






If you see someone playing carelessly with fire, then tell them to stop. Wildfires can hurt people and animals.

If you see someone starting a fire, report this to an adult, the police or community leader immediately.

If you notice a veldfire burning, then report it to an adult, the police or community leader immediately.

## FIRE DANGER RATING CHART

Make one of these with the children and display it in every classroom

FIRE DANGER RATING		
Red		<b>EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. NO FIRES!</b>
Orange		<b>VERY DANGEROUS. NO FIRES!</b>
Yellow		<b>DANGEROUS.</b>
Green		<b>MEDIUM FIRE HAZARD. TAKE EXTREME CARE WITH CONTROLLED BURNING</b>
Blue		<b>LOW FIRE HAZARD. CONTROLLED BURNING ALLOWED WITH CARE</b>

## SURVIVING A VELDFIRE

If you are in the veld and you see that a fire has started, **MOVE AWAY** from the fire immediately. Never ignore the fire, even if it seems far away - it can quickly become large and engulf you!

The most dangerous situation to be in is when a veld fire is moving up a steep slope, and you are above it with bush and grass between you and the fire.

If you feel threatened and you don't think you can outrun the fire, or if you are surrounded, then find a 'Safe Zone'.

A 'Safe Zone' can be an area that has already been burnt, or is completely clear of any fuel that can burn, such as a wide road or an old homestead. The clear area should be as large as possible.

DON'T PANIC and run at the last minute.

Remember that what will hurt you is the heat that the fire makes, and the lack of oxygen to breathe.

Lie down on the ground, cover your head, breathe deeply before the smoke gets too close, and hold your breath when the fire passes over and around you. If you have blankets or extra clothing with you, try to cover any exposed parts of your body.

**It is always best NOT to get into this situation, and MOVING AWAY from the fire is always the best option.**

Available in the following languages:  
English, Afrikaans, Xhosa, Zulu, North Sotho and Tsonga  
Copies of this wall chart may be obtained from:

**Working on Fire**

Private Bag X7,

Claremont 7735

Please send a stamped, self addressed envelope .

Copies may be ordered in packs of 10 for R50.00

Email: luthfia@wofire.co.za