


STEP 3:
SAVING YOUR HOME

FROM DISASTER!



Imagine a 2 kilometer wide wall of fire approaching the village... you can hardly breathe in the dense smoke... burning cinders are being swept into your property by the gale-force South-Easter... imagine your bushes suddenly fanned into flames...and the fire-fighters are no-where in sight! It is too late to work out what to do!

Everything needed to save your home and possessions should have already been done!

Its vital to be properly insured...but even the best insurer can't replace your computer data, files, birth certificates, personal documents, family photos and favorite ornaments and works of art! How much time will it take to rebuild your life?

Obviously we need to do everything we can to reduce the risk of a fire starting... and gain those precious 'extra minutes' that will help give firefighters a better chance to get the fire under control! Reducing the fire hazards can make it safer for you to stay and defend your home.

BEGIN NOW BY REMOVING...

- ♦ **all DEAD VEGETATION from your property and verge**
- ♦ **all FAST BURNING ALIEN INVASIVES (Rooikrans, Pampas Grass, Port Jackson, Black Wattle, gum trees, etc.) from your property and verge**
- ♦ **ALL BUSHES close to windows, glass doors, wood decks or beams, etc.**

A well-maintained garden will reduce the fire intensity and help slow down the fire's progress. New gardens can be laid out as FireWise gardens...and if yours is an established or natural fynbos garden, you should work towards achieving a FireWise garden, year by year.

STEP 4: MAINTAIN A FIREWISE GARDEN

A well-maintained garden will reduce a fire's intensity and help slow down its progress. SANBI recommends that new gardens are laid out in 3 FireWise 'zones'... those with established gardens or natural fynbos erven should work towards achieving these FireWise ZONES, year by year.

'CLEAR' ZONE : ± 3 m

No large shrubs, no climbers or trellises on the walls. Use low growing plants and ground-covers interspersed with gravel or lawn.

Fynbos should be trimmed to about 20cm high and all dead plant material removed.

Sourfig spreads a thick layer of fleshy leaves on the soil surface which could delay the spread of fire. **Ericas** and **restios** can be kept provided there is no dead plant material or undergrowth around them.

MEDIUM RESISTANT MIDDLE ZONE:

Mix tall and short fynbos shrubs to reduce fire heat. Certain local plant species like **Bietou**, are relatively fire resistant.

HIGHLY RESISTANT OUTER 'BUFFER' ZONE:

Low growing plants with a high resistance to fire like **Sourfig**.



CLEAR ZONE GROUNDCOVERS

Gazania pectinata
Gazania krebsiana - (red gazania)
Arctotis angustifolia (sandveld arctotis)
Arctotis stoechadifolia - (silver arctotis)
Helichysum retortum
Cliffortia ferruginea - (glastee)
Carpobrotus edulis - (sourfig)
Carpobrotus acinaciformis - (sourfig)
Lampranthus furvus - (vygie)
Lampranthus bicolor - (vygie)

SMALL SHRUBS

Agathosma ciliaris
Coleonema album - (confetti bush)
Phylla ericoides
Gnidia squamosa
Stilbe ericoides
Ericas

with succulent leaves

Cotyledon orbiculata - (pig's ear)
Crassula coccinea - (red crassula)
Crassula fascicularis - (klipblom)

MEDIUM RESISTANT ZONE SPROUTERS

Leucadendron salignum
Protea cynaroides - (King protea)
Mimetes cucullatus - (rooi stompie)
Rhus lucida - (blinkblaar taibos)
Pelargonium cucullatum - (wild malva)
Maytenus oleoides - (klipkershout)
Brachylaena discolor - (kusvaalbos)
Olea europaea var *africana* (wild olive)
Chondropetalum tectorum - (dekriet)

RESISTANT TREES

Brabejum stellatifolium - (Wild Olive)
Cunonia capensis - (Rooiels)
Ilex mitis - (African Holly)
Halleria lucida - (Tree Fuschia)
Canthium mundianum - (Rock alder)

BUFFER ZONE FLESHY GROUND COVERS:

Carpobrotus edulis - (sourfig)
Carpobrotus acinaciformis (sourfig)
Lampranthus furvus - (vygie)
Lampranthus bicolor - (vygie)

BULBS

Haemanthus coccineus - (April fool)
Brunsvigia orientalis - (King's candelabra)

GOOD HEDGE TREES

Rhus crenata - (dune crowberry)
Rhus glauca - (blou koeniebos)
Rhus lucida - (blinkblaar taibos)
Tarchonanthus camphoratus - (campher bush)
Chrysanthemoides monalifera - (bietou)

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL
INDIGENOUS NURSERIES**

STAY OR EVACUATE?

WHAT TO DO

Once you have assessed the fire risk and taken the physical steps to reduce the hazard, you must plan for a fire emergency. Decide whether to stay and defend your property... or evacuate. If you decide to evacuate, do so **well before** the fire approaches the area. A home is more likely to be saved if there are able-bodied people to quickly extinguish small fires on or near the house during a wild fire. But you need the proper equipment and you must be mentally and physically prepared to fight fire.

If you decide to stay...



1 Evacuate children, pets, the old and infirm, well in advance. Only willing, able-bodied family members should be left to defend the home.

2 Have a kit of **protective clothing** ready. (Goggles and a tea-towel for over the nose and mouth to help reduce smoke inhalation.)

3 Keep a **fire-fighting kit** in readiness, (e.g. heavy, rubber fire beaters, a ladder, mops, buckets and garden hose with spray nozzle.)



4 Identify a safe escape route and rendezvous point should the situation become dangerous. **No property is worth losing a life over!** (NB. Burglar bars and safety gates could trap your family in the home, so be sure to consider these.)

5 Ensure that all household members know the fire plan. **Rehearse it now until you are sure everyone knows exactly what to do.**



6 Ensure **easy access and turning space** for emergency vehicles.

7 Check the periphery of your home for potential hazards – remove combustible vegetation and garden furniture.

8 Use your hose sprinkler system to help **soak the area**. NB. Wait until the fire is **close by**, as radiant heat accelerates evaporation.



9 Keep a fire extinguisher/s in the house. Bring the garden hose into the house as you'll need it later and the fire could have destroyed it. **DO NOT spray water against windows** as they may crack or shatter.

10 Once the fire is nearby, **close** all exterior openings and check the interior for stray embers. **Remove curtains** from window openings as these will easily **catch alight** if the window glass shatters in the heat!



11 **Fill a bath and buckets** as water pressure will drop dramatically due to other fire fighting efforts.

12 If you need to, **escape from the side of the house furthest from the fire**. Use heavy, wet blankets for shielding. Move to a safe, open area with limited fire risk.

13 Wait for the fire to pass before you leave your home and deal with spot fires in the yard. Check for trees, electrical or telephone poles that may still be burning. Douse with water, **but avoid any water coming into contact with electrical wiring**. Remember any firefighting equipment left outside, (hoses, plastic hose connectors, etc.) may have been damaged.

If you decide to evacuate...

Ensure you do not hamper fire-fighters or fire-engines while making your exit. Assemble at your designated evacuation area...

PRINGLE BAY: Pringle Bay United Church, Central/Crescent Roads.

BETTY'S BAY: Centre Shop parking area and/or Penguin Place. Crassula Hall will be the refreshment and information centre and where traumatised people and animals will receive attention, etc.

ROOI ELS: The CBD parking, unless notified of a new location.

FIRE RULES

in our FIREWISE COMMUNITY

**AS FIRE IS A CONSTANT DANGER IN THIS VILLAGE
PLEASE STICK TO THESE FIREWISE RULES**

WE NEVER...

- ◆ light a braai fire if there's the danger of sparks escaping.
- ◆ leave a fire unattended.
- ◆ discard cigarette butts or fire-coals.
- ◆ burn garden rubbish (unless with a permit).
- ◆ set off fireworks (unless in a designated area).

WE ALWAYS...

- ◆ braai with a hosepipe on hand
- ◆ extinguish our braai fires completely
- ◆ keep our gardens free of alien vegetation and dead wood
- ◆ keep tall vegetation away from windows and decks
- ◆ assist our local hack whenever possible

**Remember, if proven liable, you can be held responsible for all the costs of a fire you start!
Fire-fighting costs alone could run into millions of rand.**

REPORT a fire IMMEDIATELY in the following order...

Overstrand Emergency Call Centre		028 313 8000 028 312 2400
Kleinmond Fire Station		082 774 4581
Pringle Bay	Clayton Francis	082 416 6685 028 273 8371
If in the Kogelberg Nature Reserve	Mark Johns	082 783 8585