

Letaba Fire Protection Association NPC

CIPC Registration: 2018/495007/08 DFFE Registration: 1117/01 (08/06/2007)

P.O. Box 3711

Tzaneen

0850

Bank Details:

ABSA Tzaneen

Savings:

911 786 9007

VAT: 4700305149

Fireline: 076 844 1646
Manager: 076 550 2260 x1
Administration: 076 550 2260 x2
Dispatch: 076 550 2260 x3
E:mail: admin@letabafire.co.za



Web: <http://www.letabafire.co.za> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/letabafire> Twitter: @letabafire Instagram: Letaba Fire Protection Association

Veldfire Equipment & Usage.

Manual Tools

These are essential for ground crews, especially in areas inaccessible to vehicles.

- **Rakes (Fire Rakes / McLeod Rakes)**
 - **Use:** Scraping away dry grass, leaves, and debris to create firebreaks or stop fire spread.
 - **Scenario:** Used where fire lines need to be cleared in grasslands, or pine plantations.
- **Beaters (Fire Beaters)**
 - **Use:** A flat rubber paddle on a handle, used to beat out flames in grass and low shrubs.
 - **Scenario:** Very effective in grassveld fires or where flames are less than 1m high.
- **Knapsack (Knapsack Sprayer / Backpack Pump)**
 - **Use:** A 15–20 litre water-filled backpack with a hand pump to spray water directly on flames or hotspots.
 - **Scenario:** Ideal for mopping up after the main fire is contained, or for quick attacks in areas vehicles can't reach.
- **Fire Swatters / Fire Flappers**
 - **Use:** Similar to beaters, but with reinforced rubber to smother flames by cutting off oxygen.
 - **Scenario:** Used in grass fires or flare-ups near roadsides.

Water Delivery Systems & Vehicles

These are crucial for rapid suppression and for providing water where natural sources aren't available.

- **Skid Units**
 - **Use:** Portable high-pressure water tanks mounted on 4x4 vehicles or bakkies.
 - **Scenario:** Deployed in plantations, farms, and rural roads — great for quick response and direct water application on small to medium fires.
- **Fire Trucks / Tankers**
 - **Use:** Larger vehicles carrying higher water volumes and pumps.
 - **Scenario:** Used in commercial forestry, plantations, and urban interface areas where access roads exist.
- **Tractor-Drawn Water Carts**
 - **Use:** Used in agriculture for fire suppression along crop fields or orchards and refilling points for skid units. Must not be used in forestry plantation fires!
 - **Scenario:** Particularly effective and macadamia farm areas.

Fire Protection Officer: Vincent van der Westhuizen (FPO registration: 1117)

Directors Letaba Fire Protection Association NPC: MLT Gieselbach, QA Hagens, Ricardo Terblanche

Director / Chairman: Marinus Gieselbach chair@letaba.co.za

Fire Manager: Rouan Snyman manager@letabafire.co.za

Administration and Finances: Anita JV Rensburg admin@letabafire.co.za

Dispatch: dispatch@letabafire.co.za

Assistant Dispatcher: Simon Malaji simon@letabafire.co.za **LFPA Community Representative** Nicole Ramokone base@letabafire.co.za

A Fire Protection Association registered with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (Department: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment), under registration number 1117/01 according to and registered in terms of the Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998.

Letaba Fire Protection Association NPC

CIPC Registration: 2018/495007/08 DFFE Registration: 1117/01 (08/06/2007)

P.O. Box 3711

Tzaneen

0850

Bank Details:

ABSA Tzaneen

Savings:

911 786 9007

VAT: 4700305149

Fireline: 076 844 1646
Manager: 076 550 2260 x1
Administration: 076 550 2260 x2
Dispatch: 076 550 2260 x3
E:mail: admin@letabafire.co.za



Web: <http://www.letabafire.co.za> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/letabafire> Twitter: @letabafire Instagram: Letaba Fire Protection Association

Aerial Support

Used in large, inaccessible, or fast-moving fires.

- **Spotter Aircraft**
 - **Use:** Small planes that provide aerial intelligence and coordinate helicopter/bomber drops with ground crews.
 - **Scenario:** Essential in mountainous terrain where visibility is limited from the ground.
- **Helicopters (with Bambi Buckets)**
 - **Use:** Scoop water from dams/rivers and drop it directly on fire fronts.
 - **Scenario:** Used when fire threatens communities, plantations, or conservation areas.
- **Fixed-Wing Bombers (AT-802 Air Tractors, etc.)**
 - **Use:** Drop water or fire retardant over wide areas.
 - **Scenario:** Best for building firebreaks or slowing down large, fast-moving fires.

Specialised & Support Tools

- **Drip Torches**
 - **Use:** Set controlled back burns during firebreak preparation or when steering fires.
 - **Scenario:** Used under controlled conditions by trained Incident Commanders.
- **Chainsaws & Brush Cutters**
 - **Use:** Clearing firebreaks, removing burning stumps, or felling dangerous trees.
 - **Scenario:** Forestry and plantation fires, or where smouldering material needs to be removed.
- **Bulldozers & Graders**
 - **Use:** Cut wide firebreaks or access lines.
 - **Scenario:** Used in plantations and open veld where rapid line construction is needed.
- **Hand Tools (hoes, axes, pangas, spades)**
 - **Use:** Cutting vegetation, digging firebreaks, smothering hotspots.
 - **Scenario:** Deployed by ground crews in mop-up and containment phases.

Mechanised Tools

- **Backpack Blowers (Leaf Blowers / Firefighting Blowers)**
 - **Use:** Petrol-driven blowers worn like a backpack, producing a powerful stream of air.
 - **Scenario:**
 - Blow leaves, needles, and grass off firebreaks to create clean mineral soil lines.
 - Push flames away from unburnt fuel in grass and surface fires.
 - Cool and control smouldering material during mop-up.
 - Common in grass fires, and eucalyptus plantations where heavy litter builds up.

Fire Protection Officer: Vincent van der Westhuizen (FPO registration: 1117)

Directors Letaba Fire Protection Association NPC: MLT Gieselbach, QA Hagens, Ricardo Terblanche

Director / Chairman: Marinus Gieselbach chair@letaba.co.za

Fire Manager: Rouan Snyman manager@letabafire.co.za

Administration and Finances: Anita JV Rensburg admin@letabafire.co.za

Dispatch: dispatch@letabafire.co.za

Assistant Dispatcher: Simon Malaji simon@letabafire.co.za **LFPA Community Representative** Nicole Ramokone base@letabafire.co.za

A Fire Protection Association registered with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (Department: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment), under registration number 1117/01 according to and registered in terms of the Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998.

Letaba Fire Protection Association NPC

CIPC Registration: 2018/495007/08 DFFE Registration: 1117/01 (08/06/2007)

P.O. Box 3711

Tzaneen

0850

Bank Details:

ABSA Tzaneen

Savings:

911 786 9007

VAT: 4700305149

Fireline: 076 844 1646
Manager: 076 550 2260 x1
Administration: 076 550 2260 x2
Dispatch: 076 550 2260 x3
E:mail: admin@letabafire.co.za



Web: <http://www.letabafire.co.za> Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/letabafire> Twitter: @letabafire Instagram: Letaba Fire Protection Association

✓ Summary:

- **Initial attack on grassfires:** Beaters, knap sack, rakes, skid units. Backpack blowers
- **Medium plantation or veld fires:** Skid units, tractors, fire trucks, rakes, chainsaws. Backpack blowers
- **Large-scale, fast-moving fires:** Aircraft (helicopters, bombers, spotters), coordinated with ground crews, blowers to hold containment lines
- **Mop-up phase:** Knap sack, rakes, hand tools, water carts, backpack blowers to extinguish smouldering litter and clear hotspots
- **Prevention & planning:** Bulldozers, drip torches, graders (firebreaks).and backpack blowers to prepare clean, fuel-free fire lines

Tool	How It works	Scenario Used
Fire Rakes	Scrape away grass, litter, and debris to expose bare soil.	Creating firebreaks, stopping spread in grasslands, plantations.
Fire Beaters	Flat rubber paddle smothers flames by cutting off oxygen.	Effective in low-intensity grassveld fires (flame < 1m).
Knapsack Sprayer	15–20L water backpack with a hand pump to spray water.	Quick attack and mop-up in areas vehicles can't reach.
Fire Flappers	Reinforced rubber swat tool to suffocate small flames.	Roadside and grass fires.
Skid Units	Portable water tank & pump mounted on 4x4 bakkies.	Quick response, direct water attack in plantations and farms
Backpack Blowers	Petrol-powered blowers worn on the back; blast air to clear debris or flames.	Clearing firebreaks, controlling surface fires, mop-up in plantations and heavy litter areas.
Fire Trucks / Tankers	Larger water carriers with pumps.	Used in plantations, urban interface, and farm areas with road access.
Tractor-Drawn Water Carts	Tractor tows water tank with pump & hose.	Orchards, and crop farm suppression.
Spotter Aircraft	Small plane used for aerial intelligence & coordination.	Guides aerial drops and ground crew in large fires.
Helicopters (Bambi Buckets)	Scoop and drop water on hotspots or fire lines.	Fast-moving fires near communities, plantations, or reserves.
Fixed-Wing Bombers	Drop water or retardant over wide areas.	Slowing large fire fronts, building retardant barriers.
Drip Torches	Handheld device drips burning fuel to ignite controlled burns.	Firebreak preparation and back burning.
Chainsaws & Brush Cutters	Cut trees, brush, or stumps.	Opening fire lines, clearing hazardous fuel, mop-up.
Bulldozers & Graders	Mechanically cut wide firebreaks and access lines.	Plantation and veld operations, rapid line creation.
Hand Tools (hoes, spades, pangas, axes)	Dig, cut, or smother hotspots and lines.	Containment, mop-up, and firebreak building.

Fire Protection Officer: Vincent van der Westhuizen (FPO registration: 1117)

Directors Letaba Fire Protection Association NPC: MLT Gieselbach, QA Hagens, Ricardo Terblanche

Director / Chairman: Marinus Gieselbach chair@letaba.co.za

Fire Manager: Rouan Snyman manager@letabafire.co.za

Administration and Finances: Anita JV Rensburg admin@letabafire.co.za

Dispatch: dispatch@letabafire.co.za

Assistant Dispatcher: Simon Malaji simon@letabafire.co.za **LFFPA Community Representative** Nicole Ramokone base@letabafire.co.za

A Fire Protection Association registered with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (Department: Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment), under registration number 1117/01 according to and registered in terms of the Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998.