



A WORD BEFORE WINTER

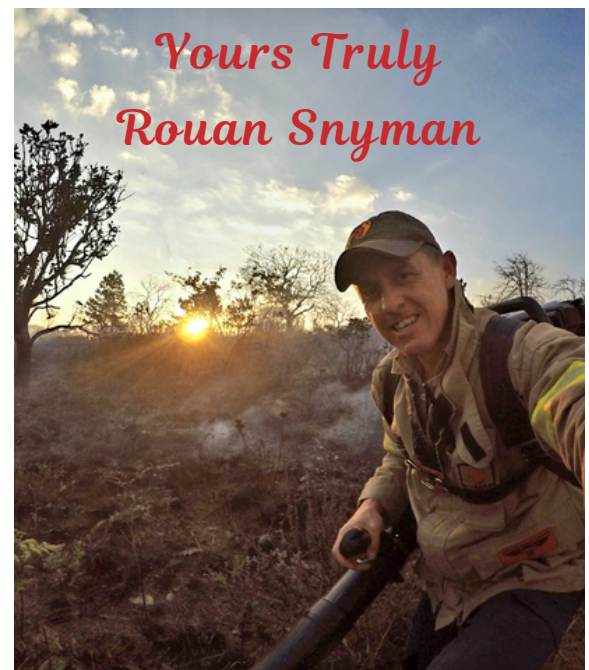
Good day all,

As we approach the start of the fire season, now is the time for every landowner to act and ensure their properties are prepared. The recent drop in temperatures and the first frost have already signalled the onset of conditions that will rapidly dry out vegetation, increasing the likelihood of early-season fires. Well-maintained firebreaks remain one of our most effective tools in reducing fire risk and protecting our farms, communities, and natural resources. Making firebreaks and being fire ready, it not a 'nice to have' but rather compulsory under the National Veld and Forest Fire Act!

We encourage all LFPA members to stay vigilant, inspect and service firefighting equipment, clear access routes, and review emergency response plans. Fire safety is a shared responsibility, and every prepared property strengthens the resilience of our entire area. Thank you to our members for your ongoing commitment to fire prevention and cooperation. To those who have not yet joined, we strongly encourage you to become part of the LFPA and work alongside your neighbours in creating a safer, fire-ready landscape. Together, through preparation, teamwork, and compliance with LFPA rules, we can make a real difference and face the fire season with confidence.

**Fire Season officially
starts 1 June 2026**

- Controlled burns are permitted until 31 July 2026
- Burning permit is required before any controlled burns
- No burning is permitted on Fridays or week-ends



Preparation for Fire Season 2026



Fire Boss specialist training was attended by 8 candidates. Francois Retief from Forestry Skills Development was conducting the training. It was a jam packed four days, but definatly worth it. All of them completed and passed the course.



Training basic Fire Fighters & Proto Teams Refresher course 94 candidates attended and passed



The Skid unit is out and about helping members preparing firebreaks with slashing, attending awarenences and week-end standby in co-operation with EST.



The aircraft arrived on the 30th of May, Ready to roll!



**DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CLOTHES ARE ON FIRE?
OR WHEN THE HOUSE IS FILLED WITH SMOKE?**

AWARENESS



The LFPA's awareness initiatives reach school children, teachers and community members. Nicole Ramokone is the driving force behind the effort that is put in every year to educate people about the dangers of fire, how to prevent it and what to do, who to call.

With Merensky and Safcol onboard sponsoring items like water bottles and school necessities such as rulers, pens and pencil bags that is used to encourage the audience to listen and pay attention.



Last year the skid unit joined the awareness program by educating in problem areas, that made a significant difference in preventing veldfires. Especially among the peanut growers.



Awareness is not just about visiting schools and communities, visitors to the LFPA base includes groups from pre-primary to University students. In fire season they enjoy a tour of the base, look at the aircraft and get first hand information from pilots and ground crew.



**MAKE SURE TO INVITE NICOLE RAMOKONE TO YOUR SCHOOL
NEXT, OR PLAN A FIELD TRIP TO THE LFPA.**

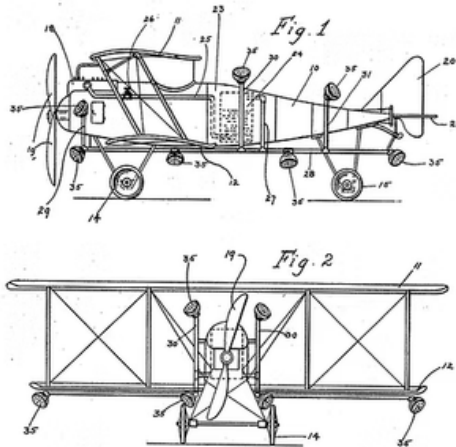
Contact: base@letabafire.co.za 0825466022

IT ALL STARTED 107 YEARS AGO!

1,278,170.

SMOKE DIFFUSING APPARATUS.
APPLICATION FILED APR. 12, 1918.

Patented Sept. 10, 1918.
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



**US PATENT 1278170, P1
FILED 1918**

INVENTOR

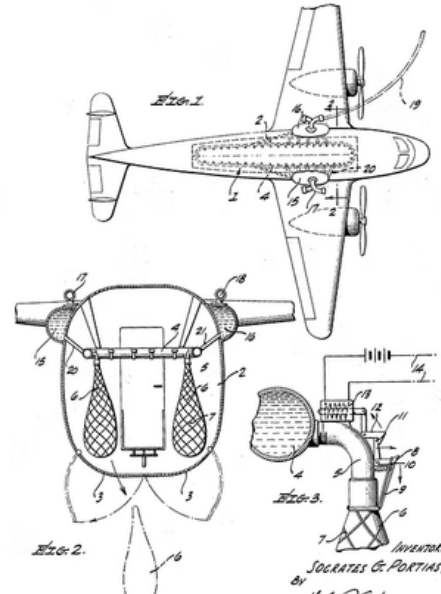
Aerial firefighting began in 1919 when a Curtiss JN-4 “Jenny” was used in Ontario, Canada, to spot wildfires from the air. Early efforts focused on fire detection, but by the 1940s, modified military aircraft began dropping water and retardant directly onto fires. During the 1950s–60s, surplus bombers like the B-17 and DC-4 were converted into the first true “airtankers,” revolutionizing wildfire suppression. The introduction of helicopters added precision and flexibility, making aerial firefighting a cornerstone of modern fire management.

In the USA, Aerial firefighting craft emerged in the 1950s, evolving from experimental water drops using military surplus aircraft and adapted agricultural planes to dedicated air tankers. The first operational aerial attack on a forest fire occurred in 1955, utilizing modified cropdusters.

July 21, 1959

S. G. PORTIAS
FIRE FIGHTING AIRPLANE
Filed Sept. 22, 1956

2,895,693



**US PATENT 2895693
FILED 1956**



The first Spotters had unique challenges! Prior to the advent of radios, a note attached to a parachute was used to get written fire location information to ground teams. This method proved unpredictable as the message usually landed away from the target area and often in a tree.

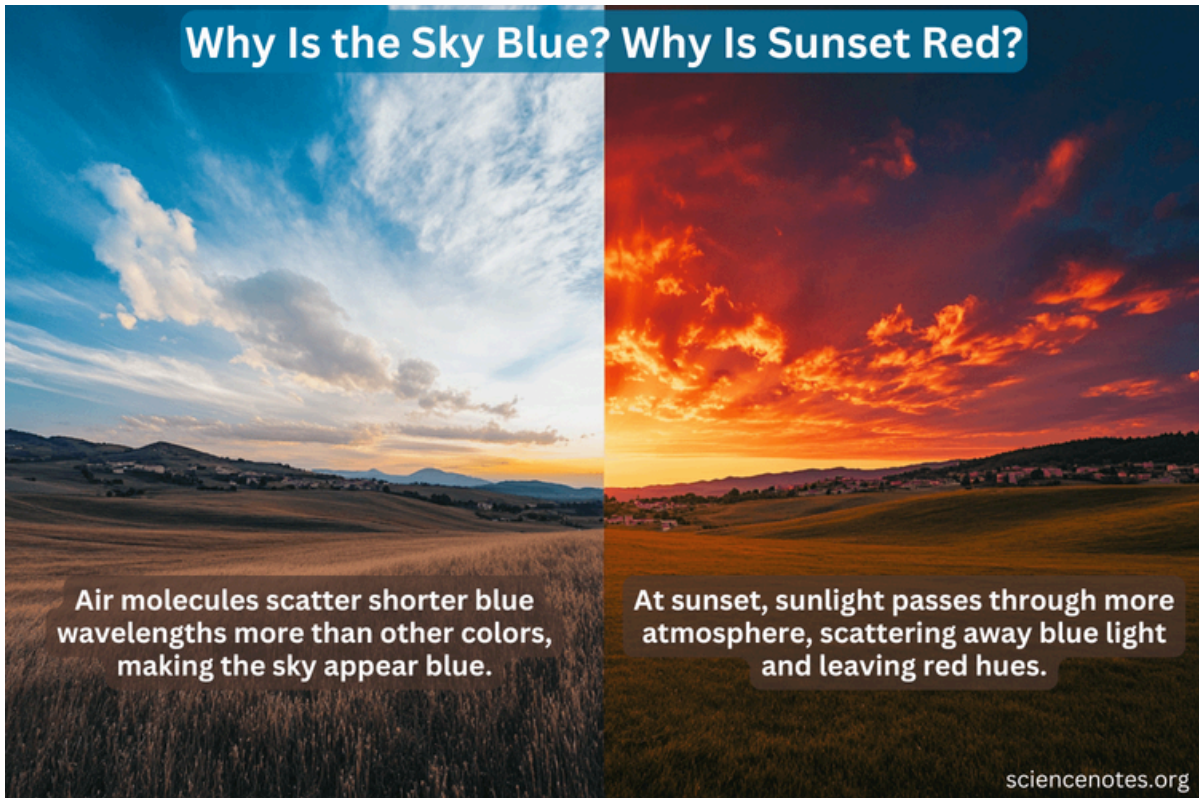
DAD, WHY IS THE SKY BLUE?



It's easy to see that the sky is blue. Have you ever wondered why?

A lot of other smart people have, too. And it took a long time to figure it out!

The sky appears blue because of a phenomenon called Rayleigh scattering. As sunlight reaches Earth's atmosphere, it collides with gases and particles in the air, scattering in all directions. Blue light travels as shorter, smaller waves and is scattered more than other colors, making the sky appear blue to our eyes.



Is the sky blue on other planets, too?

It all depends on what's in the atmosphere! For example, Mars has a very thin atmosphere made mostly of carbon dioxide and filled with fine dust particles. These fine particles scatter light differently than the gases and particles in Earth's atmosphere.

Photos from NASA's rovers and landers on Mars have shown us that at sunset there is actually the opposite of what you'd experience on Earth. During the daytime, the Martian sky takes on an orange or reddish color. But as the Sun sets, the sky around the Sun begins to take on a blue-gray tone.