

Guideline for Event Organisers on Managing the Risk of Fire

Sappi are particularly concerned about the risk of fire when it comes to Events that are held during the high risk period of June – September. The following guideline outlines the risk management approach, developed by Sappi in consultation with the [Lions River Fire Protection Association](#) (LRFPA) for the Howick and Karkloof regions. However, it can be used as a guideline for Events taking place in other areas.

- All Event Organisers must inform their local Fire Protection Association (FPA) about the Event.
- If an Event is held outside of fire season (October - May), Event Organisers must make a contribution of R6.00 per rider to their FPA.
- If an Event is held during fire season (June - September), Event Organisers must make a contribution of R9.00 per rider to their FPA.
- The race route should be submitted to all relevant authorities including:
 - The FPA
 - Other fire protection services in the area
 - Aerial support services – Operations Centre
 - Sappi
- The radio frequency used on race day by the Event Organisers and their team needs to be provided to the organisations listed above and they should all be on this frequency during the race. If a fire alert is broadcast on this frequency all authorities will be instantaneously informed.
- High risk areas are to be identified and adequate manpower and equipment is to be placed in each of these areas. The areas are outlined in the table below:



High Risk Area/Activity	Potential Risk	Recommended Intervention
Race village	Smokers and peoples activities	Generally in an open field area and close to town. If in a plantation area, need to ensure prior preparation – fire breaks burnt around the entire field and fire equipment on standby
Spectator Points	Smokers	Each marshal/staff member must be equipped with beater and knapsack spraying equipment for immediate use
Recently harvested areas/areas containing high fuel loads	Cyclists, camera crew, medical vehicles	Vehicle with water tank and pressurised hose
Water tables and check points	Activities of people manning those tables and check points	Personnel manning these points must be educated about the potential fire risks and provided with a beater and knapsack spraying equipment
Medical Crew/Camera Crew	Activities of crew and vehicles	These crews must be briefed on all fire risks and provided with details on what to do in the case of a fire breaking out

- Event Organisers should be aware of the fact that if they hold their Event during the high risk months (June – September), the Event could be cancelled at the last minute, depending on the FDI index for the day. If the index on the day is red this could lead to the possible cancellation of the Event or the need to reroute certain sections of the course.
- Water points/checkpoints should ideally be located in areas with good exit points.
- Large races must endeavor to place additional vehicles and water tanks at high risk areas.

