

Mberengwa Rural District Council (Veld Fire) By-laws, 2023

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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*Title*

1. These by-laws may be cited as the Mberengwa Rural District Council (Veld Fire) By-laws, 2023.

*Application*

2. These by-laws shall apply in all areas under the jurisdiction of Mberengwa Rural District Council.

*Interpretation*

3. In these by-laws –  
“authorised officer” means a police officer or any other person duly authorised by council to exercise any function in terms of these by-laws;  
“council” means Mberengwa Rural District Council;

*Burning of vegetation*

4. (1) Council shall making an order to regulate and control the burning of vegetation in the council area.  
  
(2) No person in the council area shall burn growing or standing vegetation on any land without giving a notice of the intention to burn standing or growing vegetation to –
  - (a) traditional leaders concerned; or
  - (b) environment sub-committee; or
  - (c) occupiers of adjacent land; or
  - (d) police officer  
(3) It shall be the duty of every landowner or occupier to put out any fire on his or her land.  
  
(4) Every person within the vicinity of a fire outbreak shall, regardless of who started the fire or whose property it is, be mandated to put out the fire

Provided that this section shall not apply where the putting out of the fire may endanger the life of the person concerned.

*Suppression measures*

5. (1) The land user, owner, farmer, lessee or any other designated authority shall be responsible for extinguishing all fires on their property regardless of the origin of the fire.
- (2) In the case of a fire outbreak any person within the vicinity of the fire other than the user or owner of the land shall carefully and properly extinguish the fire.

*Post suppression measures*

6. (1) After a fire outbreak an investigation and documentation of the fire and the extent of the damage to the environment, property or loss of life shall be undertaken within a period of seven days from the day of the occurrence of that fire.
- (2) An investigation in terms of subsection (1) shall be carried out by –
  - (a) the landowner, lessee or land user in the case of a farm or private property; or
  - (b) the village head in the case of a village; or
  - (c) the ward councillor of the respective area; or
  - (d) the council official.
- (3) Upon completion of the investigation, the persons specified in subsection (2) shall report to council and the Zimbabwe Republic Police within a period of seven days stating the date of the fire, cause of fire, extent of damage measured in terms of hectares, property and injury or loss of life.

*Fire prevention measures*

7. (1) Any land user, owner or any other designated authority shall put in place appropriate fire prevention measures on their land.
- (2) No person shall deliberately cause fire that he or she cannot extinguish which causes damage to the environment, property or life.
- (3) No person shall light a fire outside residential or commercial premises during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> November of each year.

*Offences and penalties*

8. Any person who contravenes any of the provisions shall be liable to a fine not exceeding level 5 or to imprisonment not exceeding three months or to both such fine and such imprisonment.