

No. 548

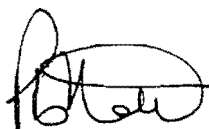
11 May 2009

**PROHIBITION ON THE MAKING OF FIRES IN THE OPEN AIR, THE DESTRUCTION BY BURNING OF GROUND COVER, INCLUDING SLASH, THE CLEARING OR MAINTENANCE OF FIRE BELTS BY BURNING OR THE EXECUTION OF BLOCKBURNS: KWAZULU NATAL**

I, Pamela Buleiwa Yako, Director-General: Water Affairs and Forestry, hereby declare in terms of section 25 (1), (2) and (3) of the Forest Act, 1984 (Act No. 122 of 1984) that the State Forests in the areas the boundaries of which are indicated in Schedules A and B hereto are subject to an extraordinary fire hazard. I therefore direct-

- (1) that in the areas mentioned and during the periods indicated in the Schedule, no person shall make a fire in the open air, or, if such a fire has been made, allow it to continue to burn or add fuel thereto, otherwise than –
  - (a) fires made within a demarcated picnic or camping area or caravan park, or holiday resorts, but only at places within such an area which have been specifically prepared and maintained for that purpose: provided that such fires are properly extinguished with water and/or sand;
  - (b) fires for the preparation of food on residential stands which are properly protected against fire;
  - (c) fires made on residential and industrial stands in proclaimed townships which are properly protected against fire and;
  - (d) fires to facilitate the harvesting of sugarcane, which is to be allowed from 18:00 on Fridays to 07:00 on Saturdays in the Zululand Interior Areas, 08:00 in the Northern Natal and Zululand Coastal Areas and 10:00 in the Natal Midlands Areas, as well as, 17:00 on Sundays to 06:00 on Mondays;
- (2) that in the areas mentioned and during the periods indicated in the Schedule, **no person shall destroy any ground cover**, including any slash or harvest residue by burning other than maize harvest residue, which may be destroyed from 14:00 to 24:00 daily, except from 18:00 on Fridays to 14:00 on Mondays, subject to regulation 12, promulgated in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983); and in compliance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998);
- (3) that in the areas mentioned and during the periods indicated in the Schedule, **the clearing or maintenance of fire belts by burning is prohibited**;
- (4) that in the areas mentioned and during the periods indicated in the Schedule, the **execution of block burns** including the burning of veld, may not take place from 12:00 for Zululand Interior Areas and 18:00 for Northern Natal and Natal Midlands on Fridays to 06:00 on Mondays, subject to regulation 12, promulgated in terms of the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act, 1983 (Act No. 43 of 1983); and in compliance with the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, 1998 (Act No. 101 of 1998).

These prohibitions or part thereof as well as the period(s) of validity can be lifted or amended by the Regional Director, where and/or when circumstances permit, subject to review by the local/nearest Fire Protection Association.



**Ms Pam Yako**  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL: WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY