

More can be done to prevent fires

As tragic as this was it should not surprise us and cannot be called unexpected. Anyone with any sense and knowledge of the conditions of the affected areas will agree that the smallest spark is enough to set off such an inferno. There seems to be no fire breaks anymore, the undergrowth is never cleared and lies bone dry so deep in places that one can hardly walk through. The ancient trees are never trimmed and are left to grow to enormous heights. Together with a good South Easter it creates the ideal conditions for massive wild fires.

It's happened before on Signal Hill and other places within the national park, yet little or no essential reaction is ever forthcoming.

However, Sanparks are not the only perpetrators in that respect, many places belonging to the City and other governmental institutions are similarly neglected.

We live next to a large plot belonging to the national public works department. The place is never cleaned nor cleared and remains in total neglect since the wall of Ysterplaat airfield was relocated some 20 years ago. It's a fire danger when dry. It's a constant security danger which has caused us break-ins, and it's an invitation for a landgrab. If the latter ever happens all those in "responsible" positions will plead surprise, but the writing is on the wall, it happens daily all over the country.

Forward planning and proper strategy, scientific study of matters with proper analysis and assessment is required to prevent such man-made disasters from happening.

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