

The great Cedarberg Fire of 2025

On 22 December 2025, a vehicle and trailer caught fire on the Uitkyk pass. The driver pulled over, and the driver and occupants were alright, but the fire soon spread to both sides of the road.

Fanned by wind and hot summer days, the fire grew, and continued for two weeks. In some areas the fynbos had not burnt for a long time, adding more fuel load.



It officially became known as the Uitkyk Fire, and burnt 53,000 Hectares (53km²), a huge part of the Central Cederberg.

The full arsenal of fire fighting was employed. Ground crews, helicopters, fire trucks, volunteers. Many organizations and individuals fought the fight: CapeNature, Cederberg and West Coast Municipalities, Working on Fire (WOF), the Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association, and Volunteer Wildfire Services (VWS), as well as all the local farmers. The Cape Winelands District Municipality also joined the effort.

The fire raced through both Driehoek and Kromrivier, yet fire fighters managed to save all dwellings. Only two caravans at Driehoek were lost.



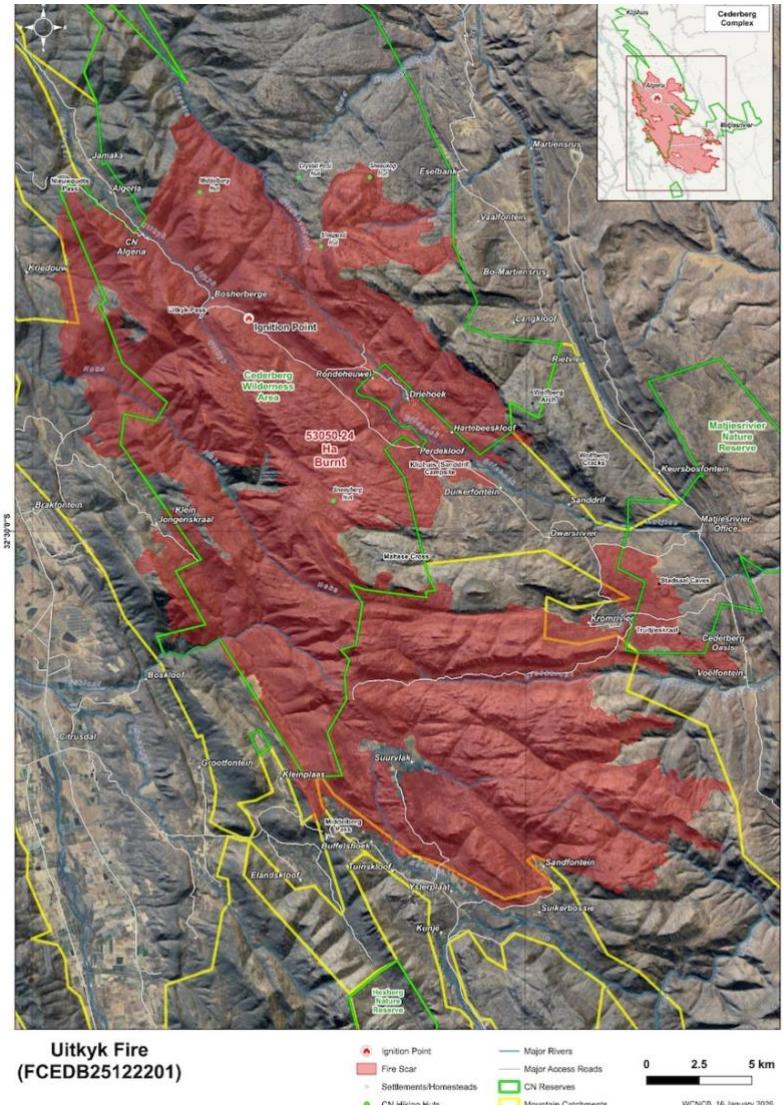
The fire swept through Kromrivier without any serious damage.



The MCSA's own Breekrants property burnt almost entirely.

In the end, the fire burnt most of the central Cederberg between Uitkyk Pass to the North, the Western Slopes of the Cederberg above Citrusdal to the West, Sandfontein to the south, Stadsaal and Vogelfontein to the South-East, and Tafelberg to the East.

As biologists will tell you, fire is part of the natural process for the Western Cape fynbos. However, it becomes a problem when it happens too often. In this instance, some of the fynbos burnt recently, but most of it was old vegetation that had not burned for some years.



For tourists, it is unfortunate that such a large area of the Cederberg Conservancy burnt in one year. The huge Krakadouw Fire in March 2025 burnt 20,000 hectares, so all in all about half the Cederberg burnt in 2025. (The broader Cederberg Wilderness Area comprises about 180,000 Hectares. The Cape Nature oversees is 67,000 Ha, and the MCSA Breekrants property is 4,000 ha).

The aftermath:

Accommodation: Driehoek and Kromrivier are open again. Sandrif/Dwarsrivier were unaffected by the fire. Cape Nature camping areas and sites within the affected zones will remain closed for an extended period.

Open: Wolfberg, Wolfberg cracks, Maltese Cross, Sugarloaf, and the northern Cederberg are open for hiking and climbing. (Sandrif Crag is officially open, but baboons have taken over, with baboon poo and pee at the base and on almost every ledge and rail).

Closed until 1 December 2026: Tafelberg, Truijieskraal, Sneeuwberg are closed for hiking and climbing.

Breekkrants burned almost entirely, and we advise Members not to visit and disturb the land, in alignment with the Cape Nature closures.

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