

**AGENDA of the
Portfolio Committee : Municipal Public Safety
4 February 2025
(Also the agenda for the Mayoral Committee Meeting : 10 February 2025)**

**6.
DISASTER MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024**

**NJ Michaels
20 January 2025**

Director: Municipal Public Safety

(028) 313 8054

1. Executive Summary

Section 50 of the Disaster Management Act states that each municipality must submit a report annually on disaster management activities.

The purpose of this report is thus to report on such activities during the financial year 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024.

2. Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan - IGNITE

Directorate: Municipal Public safety
Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management

3. Compliance with Strategic Priorities

Provision of democratic, accountable and ethical governance
Provision and maintenance of municipal services
Creation and maintenance of a safe and healthy environment

4. Delegated Authority

None

5. Legal Requirements

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
Disaster Management Act, No 57 of 2002
Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, No 32 of 2000
Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, No 117 of 1998
Service Delivery Budget Implementation Plan

6. Background/Discussion/Evaluation/Conclusion

Background

The Overstrand Municipality is responsible to promote a safe and healthy environment for all communities, according to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. Section 50 of the Disaster Management Act refers to annual reports:

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The disaster management centre of a municipality must submit a report annually to the municipal council on-

- (a) Its activities during the year;*
- (b) The result of the centre's monitoring of prevention and mitigation initiatives;*
- (c) Disasters that occurred during the year in the area of the municipality;*
- (d) The classification, magnitude and severity of these disasters;*
- (e) The effects they had;*
- (f) Particular problems that were experienced –*
 - a. In dealing with these disasters;*
 - b. Generally in implementing this Act, the national disaster management framework, the disaster management framework of the province concerned and the disaster management framework of its municipality*
- (g) The way in which these problems were addressed and any recommendations the centre wishes to make in this regard;*
- (h) Progress with the preparation and regular updating in terms of sections 52 and 53 of disaster management plans and strategies by municipal organs of state involved in disaster management in the municipal areas; and*
- (i) An evaluation of the implementation of such plans.*

Discussion

All disaster management activities of Overstrand Disaster Management Department are discussed in the annual report. Refer to the annual report for more information.

7. Financial Implications

In accordance with approved budget.

8. Staff Implications

None

9. Comments from other Departments, Divisions and Administrations

None

10. Annexures

Annexure A: Overstrand Municipality Disaster Management Annual Report 2023/2024

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Portfolio Committee : Municipal Public Safety
4 February 2025
(Also the agenda for the Mayoral Committee Meeting : 10 February 2025)**

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL:

that the Overstrand Municipality Disaster Management Annual Report 2023/2024
be noted.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL :

**NJ MICHAELS
L SMITH**

TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION :

1 MARCH 2025

**AGENDA of the
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4 February 2025
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**6.
DISASTER MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2023/2024**

**NJ Michaels
20 January 2025**

Director: Municipal Public Safety

(028) 313 8054

**THIS MATTER SERVED BEFORE THE MUNICIPAL PUBLIC SAFETY
PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON 4 FEBRUARY 2025, WHICH COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL:

that the Overstrand Municipality Disaster Management Annual Report 2023/2024 **be noted.**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL :

**NJ MICHAELS
L SMITH**

TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION :

1 MARCH 2025



DISASTER MANAGEMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024



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Acronyms

CAD	: Computer Aided Dispatch
DCOG	: Department of Cooperative Governance
ECD	: Early Childhood Development
FDI	: Fire Danger Index
FF	: Firefighter
goFPA	: Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association
IAP	: Incident Action Plan
ICS	: Incident Command System
IDP	: Integrated Development Plan
IMT	: Integrated Management Team
JOC	: Joint Operations Centre
MDRG	: Municipal Disaster Response Grant
MHI	: Major Hazard Installation
NDMC	: National Disaster Management Centre
NEMBA	: National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act
ODM	: Overberg District Municipality
PDMC	: Provincial Disaster Management Centre
SAWS	: South African Weather Services
SC	: Station Commander
SFF	: Senior Firefighter
SLA	: Service Level Agreement
UC	: Unified Command
WOF	: Working on Fire

Overview by Head of Department



The population of Overstrand has grown tremendously from 93 407 (2016 Community Survey, Stats SA) to 132 495 (projected population 2024) over 8 years, with an estimated increase of 39 088 residents to the jurisdiction!

Disaster Management is a multi-sectoral function which benefits all communities, races, ages and genders and does not discriminate against any single factor.

Disaster Management for Overstrand Municipality may still be in the infant years of development, but much has already been done to assist the department in achieving great outcomes in working together with other role players and stakeholders. Stakeholder engagements take place regularly and

Overstrand regularly participate in the District and Provincial forums. Such participation in forums will only increase in the future as capacity for Overstrand Disaster Management increases.

For 2023/2024 the Overstrand jurisdiction experienced some of the most severe weather events which left the town without critical infrastructure and water shortages, which required intervention from Provincial Government and assistance from neighbouring municipalities. Other disastrous incidents which occurred include the complex wildfire which occurred simultaneously in Pearly Beach and Pringle Bay (Hangklip).

A first recorded for Overstrand jurisdiction is the approval of an MHI (Major Hazard Installation), a bulk storage facility for LPG. The facility will supply to retailers and is located on the verge of a residential complex. Many consultations occurred prior to the establishment opening up. Documents relevant to the MHI can be found in the Disaster Management Plan.

Overstrand Disaster Management will continue to work in collaboration with other departments, attempting to move from reactive work to proactive initiatives, projects and programmes for a safer and more resilient community.

MR L SMITH

HEAD: DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE

1. Chapter 1: General Information

1.1. Introduction

The Overstrand Municipality is located in the Western Cape, approximately 121km away from the City of Cape Town. The Overstrand Municipality has its head office based in Hermanus and offers a decentralised service with offices in Greater Gansbaai, Hangklip / Kleinmond and Stanford too.

The municipal area of Overstrand covers a surface of almost 1708m². The area has a permanent population of 132 495 (Statistics South Africa Census 2022). The municipality services are delivered on a decentralised basis from offices in Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus and Kleinmond. The area is divided into three administrations: Hangklip-Kleinmond, Greater Hermanus and Gansbaai/Stanford.

The municipal area is demarcated into 14 (fourteen) wards with a councillor selected in each. The wards are divided as follows:

1. Stanford, Thembelihle
2. Gansbaai North East, Masakhane
3. Hermanus
4. Mount Pleasant, Westcliff, Hemel-en-Aarde Valley
5. Zwelihle South
6. Zwelihle North
7. Sandbaai, Hemel-en-Aarde Estate
8. Fisherhaven, Hawston
9. Kleinmond, Mountain View, Palmiet, Beverly Hills, Ext 6, Proteadorp
10. Pringle Bay, Overhills, Rooiels, Mooiuitsig, Betty's Bay
11. Baardskeerdersbos, Eluxolweni, Pearly Beach, Buffeljagsbaai, Franskraal
12. Zwelihle North West
13. Onrus, Vermont
14. Blompark, De Kelders, Gansbaai South-West, Van Dyksbaai

1.2. Purpose

The purpose of the Overstrand Disaster Management Centre is to ensure co-ordination of multi-disciplinary and sectoral risk reduction through integrated institutional capacity for Disaster Risk Management, Disaster Risk Assessment, Disaster Risk Response and Recovery.

1.3. Legislative Mandate

The Overstrand Municipality Disaster Management Centre is governed by the following legislation:

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996
 Disaster Management Act, No 57 of 2002 as amended
 National Disaster Management Framework, 2005
 Municipal Finance Management Act, No 56 of 2003
 Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, No 32 of 2000
 Fire Brigade Services Act, No 99 of 1987
 National Veld and Forest Fire Act, No 101 of 1998

1.4. Strategic Overview

1.4.1. Vision

To be the centre of excellence for the community

1.4.2. Mission

Creation of sustainable communities by delivery optimal services to support economic, social and environmental goals in a politically stable environment.

1.4.3. Values

O Opportunities for all
 V Value the input of our communities
 E Economic growth for the benefit of all
 R Recreational activities in a safe environment
 S Sustain service excellence and productivity
 T Teamwork in achieving success
 R Recognising the needs of our diverse society
 A Acknowledge the need to conserve our bio-diversity
 N No to corruption and maladministration
 D Development within a sustainable environment

1.4.4. Strategic objectives

The creation and maintenance of a safe and healthy environment.

1.5. Organisational Overview

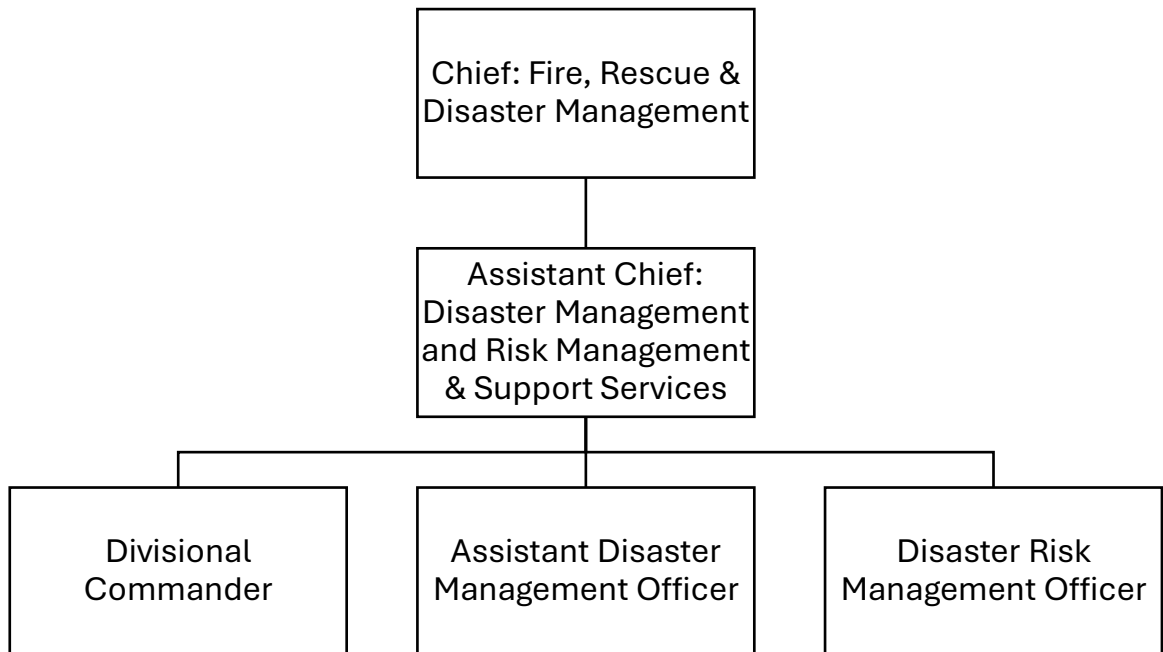


Figure 1: Disaster Management Structure

1.6. Expenditure Trends

The Disaster Management budget allocation for 2023/2024 was **R1 096 163**, excluding the salary component.

1.7. Structure of this report

The Overstrand Municipality is a local municipality within the Overberg District region. The report is thus written in the context of activities in which the Overstrand Municipality participated. The report is guided by the Disaster Management Centre yet written in consultation with other departments and stakeholders.

2. Chapter 2: Institutional Capacity

2.1. Introduction

Own average annual growth rate for 2022/2023 indicate that the population is already more than the Community Survey and stands at 104 748 – 104 985. As Overstrand is a tourist destination, these figures can increase up to 50% during festivals and festive seasons. With the increase in tourists, there is also an increase in risk and the potential for a disaster to strike. It is anticipated that the growth rate of Overstrand Municipality will be faster than that of Overberg District Municipality, and that Overstrand will become the most densely populated municipality in the district in due course.

A Service Level Agreement (SLA) was entered into between Overstrand (local) Municipality and Overberg (district) Municipality on 1 October 2015. As a result of the SLA, Overstrand Municipality will render both the B and C function in its area of jurisdiction and the risk for Overstrand Municipality will be greater. Where an incident occur within the boundaries, Overstrand Municipality will respond, and if assistance is required from the District, the District Chief Fire Officer will be called upon.

In terms of the SANS 10090: Community Protection Against Fires, the Overstrand Municipality renders all services in terms of the fire risk categories:

- Category A** : *Central business districts and extensive commercial and industrial areas normally found in cities and large towns (areas where the risk of life and property due to fire occurrence and spread is likely to be high)*
- Category B** : *Limited central business districts, smaller commercial or industrial areas normally associated with small towns and decentralized areas of cities and large towns (areas where the risk to life and property due to fire occurrence and spread is likely to be moderate)*
- Category C** : *Residential areas of conventional construction*
- Category D** : *Rural risk areas of limited buildings and remote from urban areas*
- Category E** : *Special risk areas. Individual risk areas require a pre-determined attendance over and above the predominant risk category in any area. Includes large shopping / entertainment centers, informal settlements, harbours, hospitals, prisons, large airport buildings and petrochemical plants.*

2.2. Overview

Disaster Management can be defined as a “*continuous and integrated multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary process of planning and implementation of measures aimed at – (a) preventing or reducing the risk of disasters; (b) mitigating the severity or consequences*

of disasters; (c) emergency preparedness; (d) a rapid and effective response to disasters; and (e) post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation”

As of 1 May 2016, Disaster Management became a local municipal function, and each local municipality was thus responsible for its own Disaster Management Centre. This function is responsible to promote disaster management training and community awareness to reduce vulnerability to communities most at risk. Disaster Management aims to reduce, minimize, and prevent disasters through risk assessment and mitigation strategies.

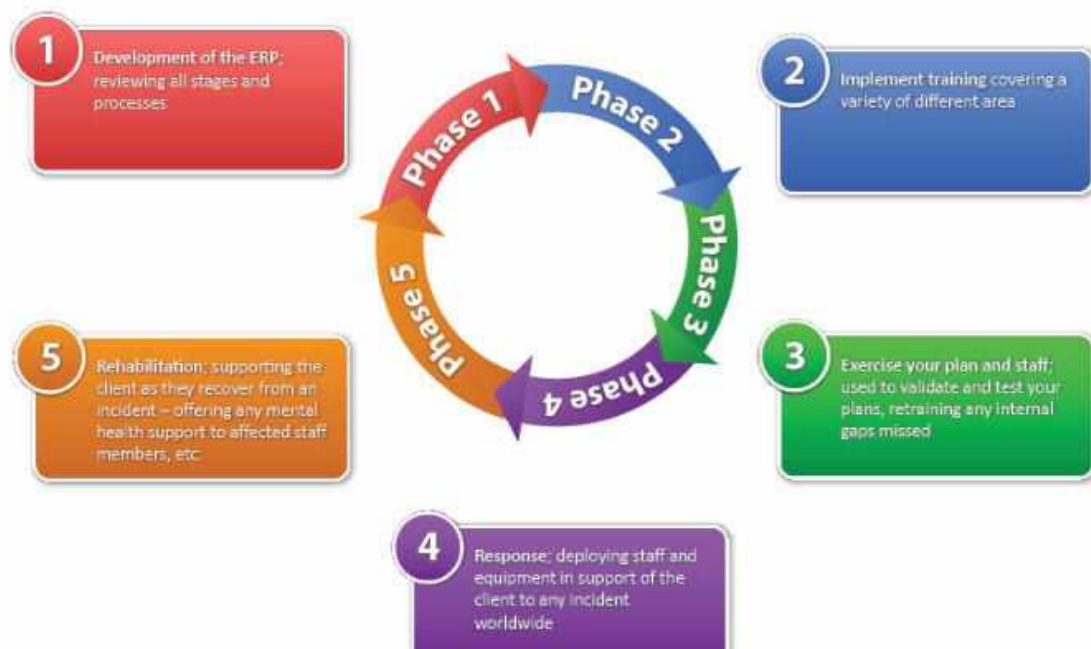


Figure 2: Disaster Management phases

The core aim of disaster management strategies can be defined in the following manner:

Prevention Strategies: fostering community awareness about prevention methods and attempting to avert the occurrence of disasters. These strategies including improving infrastructure improvements to withstand natural disasters and regulatory policies that mitigate the risk factors.

Mitigation Strategies: these activities aim to reduce the long-term and immediate effects of disasters.

Preparedness Strategies: this involves activities to monitor known hazards, setting up reliable early warning systems, preparing emergency activation plans and implementing public education programmes to ensure community preparedness which will enable them to respond effectively when warnings are issued.

Rehabilitation Strategies: these activities involve repair and improvement to the affected areas which will enhance resilience against future potential disasters. The key

phrase is to “build back better” by taking into account history (lessons learnt) to withstand and rebound from future disasters.

2.3. Disaster Management Policy

On 29 March 2017 the Overstrand Municipality Disaster Management Policy was adopted by Council. The policy tends to establish a disaster management culture, which focuses on risk reduction and prevention, mitigation, response and recovery, which will require a dedicated effort by all directorates and all its members to develop a proactive stance towards risk reduction and proactive disaster management culture.

The objectives of the policy is to coordinate the following functions:

- Building of institutional capacity within the Overstrand Municipality;
- Perform disaster risk reduction initiatives to ensure safer and resilient communities;
- Ensure implementation of community safety programs and campaigns to promote safe resilient sustainable communities;
- Establishing of efficient and timely early warning systems;
- Improving of emergency preparedness in vulnerable communities; and
- Ensure appropriate response by relevant services to emergencies and disasters within the Overstrand Municipality.

The Disaster Management Policy highlights the importance of directives. Refer to section 2.2 Directives for more information on the directives.

2.4. Directives for members of the Disaster Management Advisory Forum (Disaster Management Steering Committee)

Disaster Management Directives are signed by all Directors of the Overstrand Municipality and key role players in the event of a disaster. The directives, among other include the following:

For Directors:

- Identify specific hazards and vulnerability relating to the core function of the directorate and / or priority disaster risks for the directorate;
- Integrates Disaster Risk Management activities into the core mandate of Overstrand Municipality in order to ensure disaster risk reduction take place;
- Identify directorate projects which will reduce risk in vulnerable communities;
- Compile a contingency and business continuity plan for the department. The contingency and/or business continuity plan will form an additional to the basic plan as developed by Disaster Management that provides for the coordinated utilization of resources. Thus, every line function structure must

have a formal contingency plan for a disaster as defined by the Disaster Management Act, 2002;

- Ensure that early warnings are linked to the contingency plan(s);
- Identify specific target groups for awareness campaigns and coordinates such campaigns with Disaster Management;
- Allocate a percentage of the annual budget to implement Disaster Risk Management Projects (capital as well as operational).

Due to the change in the micro and macro structure of the Overstrand Municipality, the Disaster Management Directives will be reviewed and reported on in the next reporting period.

2.5. Overstrand Disaster Management Plan

In terms of the Section 53 of the Disaster Management Act, each municipality must prepare a disaster management plan/framework for its area according to the circumstances prevailing in the area, after consulting with the District Municipality and other Local Municipalities within the area of the District Municipality.

Section 25, 38, 52 and 53 specify that those organs of state, must prepare a disaster management plan setting out, amongst others, its roles and responsibilities regarding emergency response, post disaster recovery and rehabilitation, as well as an outline of the capacity to fulfil these roles and responsibilities and contingency strategies and emergency procedures in the event of a disaster, including measures to finance these strategies.

The formulation and implementation of a Disaster Management Plan forms part of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process for the Overstrand Municipality. The purpose of the Disaster Management Plan is to ensure that there is disaster management coordination and response at all times, enhancing the Overstrand Municipality's ability to prevent and to deal with disasters and to avoid development that is considered high risk in terms of the potential for disasters.

The Overstrand Municipality Disaster Management Plan was reviewed in March 2024, as part of the IDP, and no comments were received in respect of the advertised documents.

The following amendments were made to the Overstrand Disaster Management Plan

- Date on front page updated
- More definitions added
- Annex A revised
- More annexures included in the Disaster Management Plan
- Paragraph 7, 8 and 9 of the plan updated

- New section included (Incident Command System)
- Directives partially updated
- Contact persons and contact details updated where applicable

2.6. Stakeholder Engagements

2.6.1. Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum

The Western Cape Government: Provincial Disaster Management Centre held Disaster Management Advisory Forum hybrid meetings for attendance by all stakeholders. The Overstrand Municipality quarterly participate in the hybrid meetings as scheduled.

The forum aims to give effect to Section 37 of the Disaster Management Act 57 of 2002 as amended to ensure the integration of disaster management activities across the province. It allows the various disaster management stakeholders to consult one another and coordinate the necessary action on disaster management related matters in the Western Cape.

2.6.2. District Disaster Management Forum

All District Municipalities have established Disaster Management Advisory Forums and committees to drive the implementation of disaster management within their respective jurisdictional areas. Overstrand Municipality participate in the Overberg District Disaster Management Advisory Forum.

2.7. Incident Management Team (IMT)

Though it has been standard practice, Overstrand Municipality officially adopted Incident Management Teams for the first time during the 2023/2024 reporting year, this is also reflected in the 2023/2024 Fire Management Plan.

The Incident Command System concept is modular in practice and can be expanded and contracted to suite the need of the incident or event (ranging from a Type 5 to a Type 1 incident). The team, depending on the scale of the incident, will be activated as deemed necessary.

To ensure proper documentation, the following forms are completed by the IMT members at extended wildfire incidents

- Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) report OR aka Uniti report
- Incident Organizer or 201 for the initial attack

- Incident Actin Plan (IAP) for incidents exceeding 12-hours. The IAP must be completed for a 12 or 24-hour period

Unified command (UC) can be implemented when an incident spans over multiple jurisdictions, a single jurisdiction with multiagency involvement, or multiple jurisdictions with multi-agency involvement.

The UC allows for agencies with different legal, geographic, and functional authorities and responsibilities to work together effectively without affecting individual agency authority, responsibility, or accountability.

Overstrand Municipality as the controlling authority will always take control of an incident within the jurisdiction; should the need arise, a UC can be implanted.

Two IMT’s are on standby on a rotational basis.

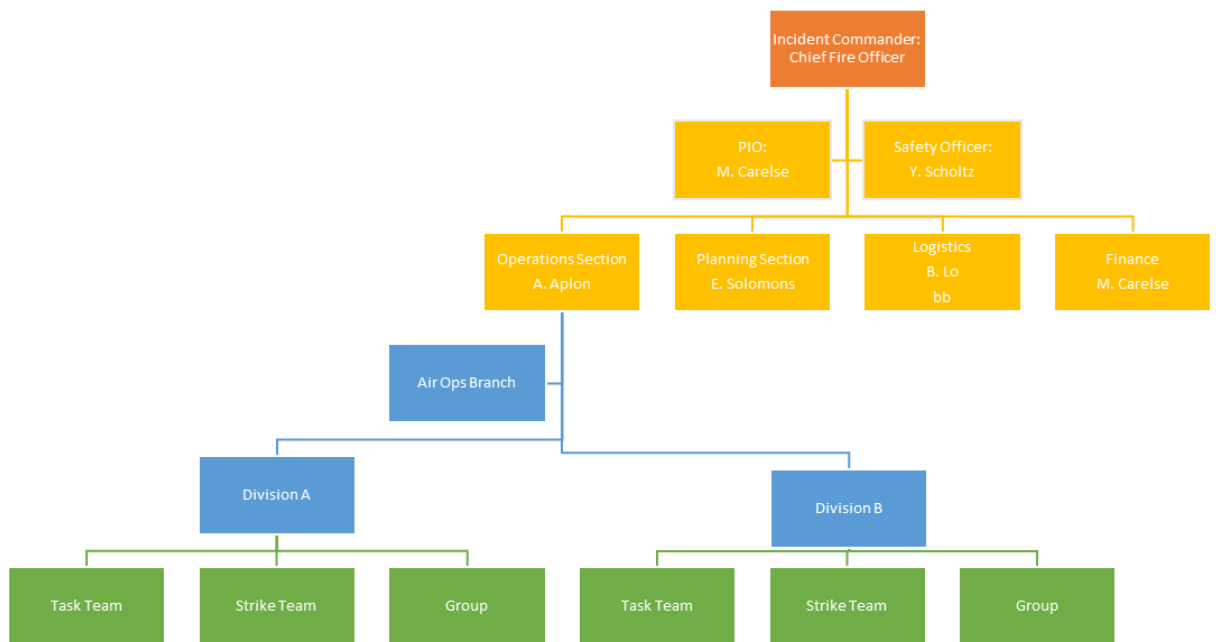


Figure 3: Proposed Incident Management Team structure

3. Chapter 3: Disaster Risk Assessments

3.1. Risk Assessment

In 2018, a thorough risk assessment was conducted by an independent consultant appointed by the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre. The work was undertaken in accordance with the Western Cape Disaster Management's standardized methodology for conducting Disaster Risk Assessments.

The top 10 risks (in no particular order) for Overstrand Municipality are:

- Wildfires
- Alien Invasive Species (Vegetative)
- Hazmat Incidents: Roads
- Civil Unrest
- Road Accidents
- Storm Surge / Coastal Flooding
- Sea-Level Risk
- Floods (Stormwater)
- Urban Fires (Informal)
- Endemism (Loss to Biodiversity)

In addition, Overstrand Municipality has adopted a Veld Fire Management Plan, which must be read in conjunction with the Overstrand Disaster Management Plan. The plan promotes an Integrated Fire Management Approach addressing landscape management both across municipal and private property in an attempt to mitigate the risks.

High-risk site visits were conducted by role players within the department. There is a consensus that the possibility exists to not fully reduce or eliminate the risk, but through working together reduce the fuel load and mitigate the impact of a potential wildfire. Interactions are continuously underway with external agencies such as Cape Nature, Working on Fire (WOF), Conservancy, goFPA (Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association) and other internal departments.

The jurisdiction of the municipality is located within a fire-dependent fynbos biome. The presence of alien infestation (such as but not limited to Rooikrans, port Jackson and black wattle) increase the intensity of the fire. The invasive alien plants pose a serious problem as they rapidly spread across Overstrand, impacting on resident species diversity and ecosystem processes. Without natural enemies the invasive plant species reproduce quickly, consuming more water and deplete our natural resources. Thick alien vegetation can provide fuel for runaway wildfires.

The Overstrand Municipality Fire Season Plan highlight redzones across the jurisdiction. For 2023/2024 the following top fire risks were identified for the fire season and discussed at the Annual High Risk Meeting with the goFPA:

Betty's Bay

- Dawidskraal area west towards Waterfalls (Blesberg)
- Blesberg (Brodie's Link / Sea Farm / Hangklip area)
- Wildland Urban Interface – structures, green belts, nature reserves and vacant plots

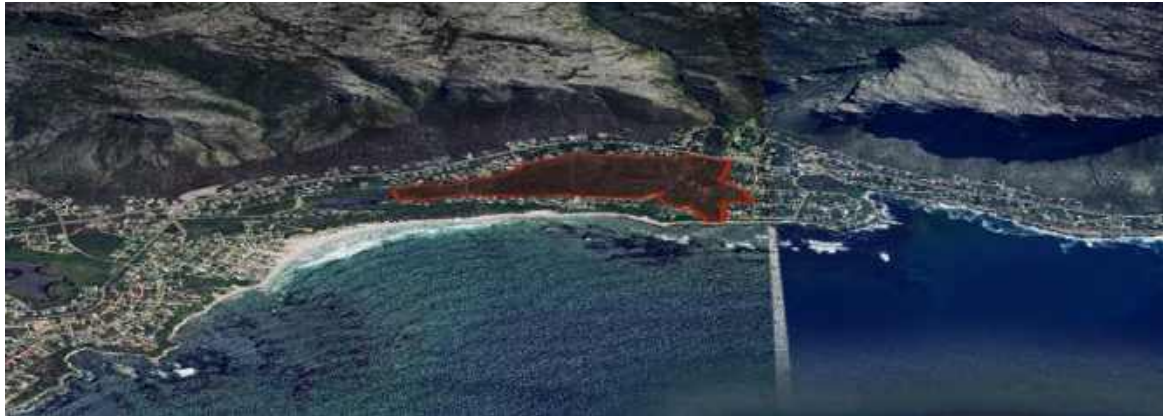


Figure 5: Dawsidskraal



Figure 4: Hangklip Blesberg

Hangklip / Kleinmond

- Entrance to Koggelberg Nature Reserve
- Kleinmond is considered a medium fire risk due to its sudden urban interface and limited firefighting capacity (limited vehicle and personnel)

Rooi Els

- Rooi Els is considered a medium risk due to the moderate fuel loads between residential structures and limited firefighting capacity in consideration to the distance to Kleinmond Fire Station. Firefighting operations can quickly change from a house fire to a veld fire and vice versa.

Pringle Bay

- Pringle Bay is considered a high risk due to the high fuel load and density. As with Rooi Else, a house fire can quickly change to a veld fire and vice versa.

Blesberg

- Blesberg is considered a major fire risk due to its high fuel load and density. As with Rooi Else and Pringle Bay, a house fire can quickly change to a veld fire and vice versa.



Figure 6: Overview Hangklip Kleinmond

Hermanus

- Mountain area at Chanteclair (Leopard Rock via Glenfruin towards Hermanus Adventure Centre along the Onrus Mountain towards Camphill (Peat Fire)
- Fernkloof Nature Reserve (Drie Damme towards Kleinrivier Mountain via Voggelgat) and coastal area



Figure 7: Fernkloof Vogelgat

Fisherhaven

- Around Meerenbosch (Fisherhaven)
- Between Hawston and Vermont
- Area from Mountain Rose Farm towards Spookfontein



Figure 8: Overview Greater Hermanus

Platbos area

- Salmondsdam Nature Reserve
- Flower Valley area
- The Stanford / Gansbaai area is experiencing rapid alien infestation, causing increases in fuel load which forms a conduit for fires and sustained / rapid fire spread

Stanford / Gansbaai area

- Grootbos area
- County Fair Chicken Farm
- Wortelgat / Walkerbay area



Figure 9: Grootbos Flower Valley

- Kleinrivier Mountain area
- Drie Damme Reserve

Gansbaai

- Walkerbay Nature Reserve
- Grootbos / Platbos Flower Valley, Avuka and adjacent farms in the area
- Area between Stanford and Gansbaai (both sides of the R43)



Figure 10: Overview Gansbaai

4. Chapter 4: Disaster Risk Reduction

4.1. Introduction

Disaster Risk Reduction aims to ensure that all disaster management stakeholders develop and implement integrated disaster management plans and risk reduction programmes. These include both long-term and short-term Mitigation Intervention Strategies to alleviate the impact of disasters on communities.

4.2. Early Warning Systems

The South African Weather Service (SAWS) is the legally mandated authority in South Africa responsible for determining and distributing Impact Based Severe Weather Warnings. These warnings are either received via an official WhatsApp Communication group or E-mail and are further distributed to broader stakeholders and other role players to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to reduce the risk and prepare for an effective disaster response.

4.3. Impact-Based Weather Warning Scale

The SAWS Impact-Based Weather Warning Scale is used to help forecasters and disaster managers determine the warning level based on its potential impacts. The colour coding and the numbering are determined by combining the level of impact with the likelihood of that impact occurring. It means that the forecaster will decide the possible result because of a particular hazard (eg. Rainfall), with input from the local disaster managers. Then, the likelihood of that impact is established using the numerical weather prediction models as well as local knowledge of antecedent conditions (any previous rainfall) (SAWS, 2021)

4.4. Prescribed burns

To reduce the impact of wildfires, Overstrand Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management embarked on a program to reduce fuel loads (age / overgrown vegetation and restoration) with the aim of better managing out-of-control wildfires and stimulating natural growth. For the period 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024, Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management assisted with the following prescribed burns:

Date of Prescribed burn	Area
17 October 2023	Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, R43, Gansbaai, Dune Yonder
1 November 2023	Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, R43, Gansbaai
25 April 2024	Grootbos Private Nature Reserve, R43, Gansbaai
27 May 2024	Fernkloof Nature Reserve, Voelklip, Erf 4771



Figure 11: Grootbos Private Nature Reserve Prescribed burn (image 1)



Figure 12: Grootbos Private Nature Reserve Prescribed burn (image 2)



Figure 13: Grootbos Private Nature Reserve Prescribed burn (image 3)



Figure 15: morning briefing meeting at Fernkloof Nature Reserve Prescribed burn



Figure 14: Burning at Fernkloof Nature Reserve Prescribed burn

4.5. Burn Permit Inspections

The Overstrand is an area consisting of many farms producing a variety of products. To sustain production and prevent interruption, it is in the best interest to continuously ensure the maintenance of fire breaks and control the fuel load. Some of the benefits include:

Safety: Wildfires can be devastating, causing loss of life, property damage, and long-term damage to the ecosystem. Fuel load reduction can reduce the risk of wildfires and improve the safety of the area for wildlife and humans.

Environmental impact: Vegetation management can promote ecosystem health by encouraging plant growth, improving soil quality, supporting biodiversity and controlling alien vegetation. This not only improves the local environment but also helps to mitigate climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide. In terms of the National Veld and Forest Fire Act, Act 101 of 1998, National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, Act 10 of 2004 (NEMBA), and Overstrand Community Fire Safety By P.N. 6454/2007, there is a legal obligation to ensure that fire breaks are

in place, invasive alien species are eradicated and importantly, these acts are performed as safely as possible.

Disaster Management is involved in conducting risk assessments at various farms continuously. The vegetation to be burnt could be in the forms of heaps or an area to be burnt (prescribed burn); the request from the owner therefore varies. Owners can burn for agricultural purposes, fuel reduction or alien clearing amongst other reasons.

Disaster Management assisted applicants with obtaining burn permits from 1 February – 30 June 2024. The table below indicates the assessments which were conducted.

APPROVED BURN PERMITS 2023/2024	
Hermanus	13
Stanford	15
Gansbaai	12
Kleinmond	1

4.6. Creating and Maintaining Fire-Wise vacant erven

The policy, Creating and Maintaining Fire-Wise Vacant Erven in Urban and Suburban Areas of The Overstrand Municipality was approved by Council on 28 September 2024. The purpose of the policy is to provide the municipality and private land owners with the minimum standards and guidelines for managing and controlling fire hazards presented by overgrown erven.

Six objectives were identified for the policy. Those objectives are:

- To prevent the outbreak and spread of fire by removing and reducing fire hazards presented by an overgrowth of combustible vegetation on erven irrespective of the type of vegetation.
- To provide for the identification of fire hazards on all vacant erven within the urban areas of the Overstrand Municipality, including Open Spaces 1 and 2 that are managed by the Municipal Environmental Management Services Department and Area Management described in the Environmental Management Overlay Zone Regulations as areas of conservation concern.
- To enable the process of notifying owners of the fire hazards presented by overgrown erven and of their obligations to comply with the relevant legislation to prevent such situations from arising.
- To ensure that fire hazards are controlled and reduced in accordance with prescribed standards.
- To ensure that all privately and publicly owned vacant erven, including open spaces within urban borders, continuously confirm to the minimum standards.

- To enable and enforce the reduction of vegetation cover.

For the reporting year, 705 first inspections were conducted and 476 second inspections. Of those inspections 827 were cleared by the owner with a further 76 cleared by the contracted appointed by the Overstrand Municipality.

4.7. Major Hazard Installation

A Major Hazard Installation (MHI) can be described in simple terms as an installation (a) where more than the prescribed quantity of any substance is or may be kept, whether permanently or temporarily; or (b) where any substance is produced, used, handled, or stored in such a form and quantity that it has the potential to cause a major incident.

The keypoint to note here is that there are two criteria for determining when an installation is classified as an MHI. The first criterion is met when the quantity of a substance exceeds the prescribed limit. The prescribed limits and the types of substances are specified in the MHI Regulation.

The second criterion is when substances are produced, used, handled, or stored in such a manner and quantity that they have the potential to cause a major incident. The key focus is on the potential for an incident, rather than whether the incident is ultimately classified as major or not. This potential is evaluated through a risk assessment.



Figure 16: MHI inspection in April 2024



Figure 17: MHI inspection with all role players

For the Overstrand jurisdiction, the MHI is the first of its kind approved within the boundaries of the urban interface. Disaster Management, in conjunction with Fire Safety, Fire & Rescue operational staff and Blazetech Safety (Pty) Ltd conducted a walkthrough of the facility. Discussions

which took place during the walkthrough include the facility layout, safety features of the mounded tank, LPG capacity, safety protocols, tanker refilling procedures, evacuation plans, and emergency procedures.

Two sirens tests were conducted on separate instances to ensure that the siren is audible to the surrounding communities; the second siren test was conducted as result that the first test was inaudible at strategic points. To ensure audibility, vehicles were placed at various locations and the siren was set off for up to 5 minutes. The audibility test passed when amendments were made to the location of the siren on the premises of the MHI.



Figure 18: Safety features and testing

**GAS HUB (ORYX ENERGY) BULK SUPPLY DEPOT
ERF2470 HERMAUS BUSINESS PARK
EVACUATION AND ADVISORY PLAN**

Safety features are in full compliance with the National Regulations SANS1089 - LPG Storage Requirements & SANS10400T:2020 Ed 4 - Fire Protection Regulations.
The site has been officially registered as a Major Hazard Installation (MHI) and is in full compliance with the SANS1514 National Major Hazard Installation Regulations.
The site has been approved for operation by the Overstrand Municipality in terms of approval for Consent Use as a Noxious business as determined by the municipal Town Planning By-law.
The safety features provided on the site are in full compliance and exceeds all minimum requirements to ensure minimum hazard exposure to lives and property in the industrial area.



	EVAUATION ROUTE FOR ALL IF FIRE IS ON PREMISES BEHIND FIRE PROTECTION WALL
	EVAUATION ROUTE TO BE TAKEN WHEN MAJOR ALARM IS ACTIVATED
	SHELTER IN PLACE AREA IF STREET IS DECLARED UN SAFE
	IMMEDIATE RISK AREA & PRIORITY EVACUATION ON ALARM ACTIVATION
	MOST LIKELY AREA WHERE A FIRE CAN OCCUR
	AREAS THAT WILL BE IMPASSABLE IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE INVOLVING DELIVERY TANKER TRUCK
	AREAS THAT CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR SAFE HARBOURING
	AREA THAT CAN BE EVACUATED ON ADVISORY FROM SITE MANAGEMENT

Phased Evacuation (Yellow Areas):
This will be the primary evacuation strategy in the event of an emergency on site. It entails that the various premises located in the yellow zones indicated on the area map are evacuated in a controlled sequence of phases, those parts of the premises expected to be at greatest risk being evacuated first.

Immediate Evacuation (Red Areas):
The areas indicated in red are the priority evacuation sites which should be evacuated on the sounding of the emergency alarm. These premises will be exposed to a fire occurring on the outside the site such as an unforeseen delivery truck (F2) incident. People are advised to follow the indicated routes in green in the event of an evacuation warning.

Advisory (Light Blue Areas):
The areas indicated in blue are the evacuate on advisory sites i.e. The danger to those areas are diminished due the boundary walls and distances from hazard exposure however residents will be required to evacuate should an incident on site escalates to a major incident.

Figure 19: Evacuation procedure for the MHI

5. Chapter 5: Disaster Response and Recovery

5.1. Flooding

5.1.1. September 2023 severe weather

During September 2023, the Overstrand Municipal jurisdiction experienced a major flooding event which disrupted the lives of the residents for more than a week. A level 6 severe thunderstorms weather warning was initially issued on 22 September 2023 which was escalated to a level 9 for disruptive rain on 24 September 2023. The impact of the disruptive rain was widespread flooding / flash flooding, mudslides and major travel disruption.

Flooding typically occur when prolonged rain fall over several days, when intense rain fall over a short period of time, or when ice or debris jam causes a river or stream to overflow into surrounding areas. Flooding can also result from the failure of a water control structure such as a levee or dam.

The Western Cape Government Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) was concerned about the forecasted cut-off low to reach the Western Cape as per the South African Weather Services (SAWS) warnings. The Overberg region, especially the coastline was forecasted to receive heavy rain from the 24th September 2023. Gale force winds with strong wave action was also forecasted and posed a problem to low lying coastal areas and small harbours.

The Incident Command Centre was activated and all role players and stakeholders participated in the JOC (Joint Operations Centre) meetings. Emergency measures were put in place and regular patrols were conducted by internal departments. For this incident, the following emergency procurement was effected:

Item Description	Amount
Jojo tanks	R 397 551.99
Speroni Pump	R 10 350
Accommodation (external municipalities assisting)	R 35 610.00
Catering	R 100 475.00
Bricks (for jojo tanks)	R 30 000.00
Sandbags	R 8719.88
TOTAL	R582 706.87

Resulting from the Level 9 disruptive rain weather warning, the vast majority of the jurisdiction was left without potable water. The main water line from the

De Bos Dam was severely damaged by the floodwaters, and so too were the secondary line and borehole line from the Hemel and Aarde wellfields. Plans for the short-term restoration of water supply from the De Bos Dam to Preekstoel Water Treatment Works proved fruitless as damages were much more extensive. Water restrictions were put in place and an operation for the supply of potable water was put in place to ensure that all areas have the minimum water in place to continue with everyday activities such as basic hygiene, cooking, and drinking water. To ensure that the demand does not extend the capabilities of the operation the Whale Festival for 2023 was cancelled!. Other activities such as watering the garden, washing car or clothes and building etc were prohibited.

Other challenges experienced during the September 2023 flooding include:

- Blocked drains (private property);
- Blocked stormwater pipes (municipal infrastructure) ;
- Trees blown over;
- Flooded and damaged road infrastructure;
- Power outages;
- Limited communication;
- Roofs blown off various households.



Figure 20: Flooding damage at Kleinmond bridge



Figure 21: Pipeline repairs to damaged infrastructure

The Overstrand Municipality received funding allocation from the Municipal Disaster Response Grant (MDRG) for infrastructure damages caused by the September 2023 floods. The approved amount transferred to the municipality was R12 472 000 (R12.4 million) during the 2023/2024 financial year from the MDRG within the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCOG) through the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC).

The approved amount allocated for six (06) projects:

Project No	Projects applied for	Total Amount
1	Section of road collapsed at entrance to Magazine FNR – Risk to water supply from 3 dams	R 500 000
2	2x Pipe sections in river crossing were damaged. One pipe temporarily repaired. Both pipes need permanent repairs to be secured	R 4 484 035
3	Increased turbidities in raw water had to be treated to SANS 241	R 300 000
4	Pipeline and manholes severely damaged, washed away and clogged. Non-functional	R 5 768 547
5	Section of Road Washed away as well as embankment next to road	R 1 000 000
6	Damage to Road to Besemhoutkloof Plaas	R419 645

5.2. Wildfires

5.2.1.1. Bellavista Fire

On 28 December 2023 at approximately 12h02 a fire was reported in the Bella Vista vicinity. The fire was initially burning on the mountainside, near the R43, between Stanford and Grootbos. As the area is identified as one of the high-risk areas for the Overstrand, aerial resources were immediately activated.

Other factors contributing to the extended wildfire are the Fire Danger Index (FDI) rating predicted for the day (an orange FDI rating was predicted), wind speeds of between 28k and 37km per hour and the limited access to thick dense vegetation.

Teamwork, knowledge, communication and great determination from the Incident Management Team (IMT), firefighters and pilots managed to protect several homes in the path of the wildfire.



Figure 22: Bellavista Fire

5.2.2. Buffeljags Fire

On 29 January 2024 at approximately 10h39 a fire was reported occurring in the Gansbaai vicinity, more specifically closer to Buffeljagsbaai. Crew members were immediately dispatched and found the fire burning in a largely inaccessible area. Not long after the fire was reported the wind speed had increased and the road had to be closed to vehicular traffic. Additional role players were activated as the fire was spreading towards thick, dense vegetation.

The FDI predicted for the day was extremely dangerous and subsequently aerial resources were activated. The area where the fire was burning was

identified in the 2023/2024 Fire Season Plan as a high risk area. This fire was subsequently the first of a complex incident which occurred simultaneously on 29 January 2024 within the Overstrand jurisdiction.

5.2.3. Pringle Bay Fire

At 14h36 on 29 January 2024 another fire was reported to the Emergency Control Room, this time occurring in the Pringle Bay vicinity. As with the Buffeljags fire, Pringle Bay area was identified as one of the high-risk areas for wildfires in the 2023.2024 Fire Season Plan.

The risk for Pringle Bay was greater than that of Buffeljags as the fire occurring at Pringle Bay was bordering the urban interface with the potential for loss of property and possibly life. The aerial resources activated for Buffeljags was diverted to Pringle Bay for structural protection.



Figure 23: images from the Pringle Bay Fire

5.3. Humanitarian relief projects

As per the Disaster Management Policy, the municipality will assist in emergencies when 3 or more households are affected. The affected households are to submit the necessary documentation (Identification Document / an Affidavit) to the Disaster Management Office. The following items will be issued to the affected households only if stock is available:

FEMALE DIGNITY PACK	MALDE DIGNITY PACK	BEDDING
Face cloth	Face cloth	Mattress
Soap	Soap	Blanket
Roll on	Roll on	Pillow
Vaseline	Vaseline	Pillow case
Toothbrush	Toothbrush	
Toothpaste	Toothpaste	

Sanitary pads		
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In terms of humanitarian relief, Disaster Management assisted with the following projects:

Month	Project / activity / response
July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distress (displacement of approximately 500 people at Thusong and Moffat Halls); temporary accommodation was arranged for the displaced individuals • Disaster Management assisted the Deputy Mayor with distribution of food parcels at the Church of Christ building in Zwelihle; 40 parcels were handed out to 40 families. The parcels were donated by Ubaulhle Bhofazi Project
August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social distress along the R43 between Fisherhaven and Vermont; temporary road closures were in place; Disaster Management on standby for further developments
September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Flooding (5.1.1)
October 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer to Flooding (5.1.1)
November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure fire, 3 backyard dwellings affected (blankets, mattresses, male and female clothing, male and female dignity packs issued)
December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure fires (no humanitarian relief provided)
January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure fire, informal dwellings affected (mattresses, male and female dignity packs, pillows, blankets, dry pack food parcel)
April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe weather from 6 – 9 April 2024; sandbags issued to affected communities
May 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster Management assisted the Deputy Mayor with distribution of food parcels at the Chris Church of Zwelihle
June 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Humanitarian relief offered to a family (food parcel, blankets, male and female dignity packs)

6. Chapter 6: Fire Brigade and Rescue Services

6.1. Fire & Rescue Capacity

As per the Fire Brigade Services Act, Act 99 of 1987, the fire brigade “service” is intended to be employed for:-

- (a) Preventing the outbreak or spread of a fire;
- (b) Fighting or extinguishing a fire;
- (c) The protection of life or property against a fire or other threatening danger;
- (d) The rescue of life or property from a fire or other danger;
- (e) Subject to the provisions of the Health Act, 1977 (Act 63 of 1977), the rendering of an ambulance service as an integral part of the fire brigade service; or
- (f) The performance of any other function connected with any of the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e).

The jurisdiction of Overstrand covers approximately 1708km² and stretches from Rooiels in the West to Quinn Point in the east. In order to perform the duties and functions as set out in the Act, Overstrand have employed the following members:

Chief: Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management	1
Principal Clerk	1
Assistant Chief	2
Station Commander (SC)	3
Platoon Commander	1
Senior Firefighter (SFF)	9
Firefighter (FF)	27

As per the 24-hour shifts, the above are divided into the different administrations of Kleinmond, Hermanus and Gansbaai:

KLEINMOND	HERMANUS	GANSBAAI
1x SC	1x SC	1x SC
1x SFF	1x SFF	1x SFF
2x FF	3x FF	2x FF

6.2. Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management Fleet

Call Sign	Description	Status	Age	Type of Vehicle
Engines				
Engine 1-1 (CEM 37463)	Mercedes Ateco	On-Run	10	Major Pumper
Engine 2-1 (CEM 7532)	Iveco (4x4)	On-Run	5	Major Pumper
Engine 3-1 (CEM 10226)	Mercedes Ateco	Off-Run	15	Major Pumper

Pumpers				
Pump 1 (CEM 30714)	Toyota Hino 4x4	On-Run	6	Water Tanker
Pump 2 (CEM 48495)	Isuzu FTS 750	On-Run	4	Bush Tanker
Pump 3 (CEM 4869)	Tata 713 4x4	Off-Run	18	4x4 Truck
Pump 5 (CEM 48493)	Isuzu FTS 750	On-Run	4	Bush Tanker
Pump 6 (CEM 1626)	Mercedes Buffel	On-Run	42	4x4 Truck
Pump 7 (CEM 21426)	Isuzu FTS 750	On-Run	4	Bush Tanker
Skid Units				
Alpha 1 (CEM 44284)	Toyota Land Cruiser	Off-Run	6	4x4 Skid unit
Alpha 2 (CEM 32828)	Toyota Land Cruiser	On-Run	13	4x4 Skid unit
Alpha 3 (CEM 28939)	Toyota Land Cruiser	On-Run	5	4x4 Skid unit
Alpha 4 (CEM 12594)	Ford Ranger Supercab	On-Run	4	4x4 Skid unit
Alpha 7 (CEM 6556)	Ford Ranger Supercab	On-Run	4	4x4 Skid unit
Command Vehicles				
CV 01 (CEM 44444)	Ford Ranger DC 4x4	On-Run	6	Command Vehicle
Delta 1 (CEM 23400)	Nissan Navara 2.5 TD LWB 4x4	On-Run	9	Disaster Management Utility Vehicle
Support Vehicles				
SV 01 (CEM 38652)	VW Polo Vivo	On-Run	9	Support Vehicle
SV 02 (CEM 47688)	VW Polo Sedan	On-Run	5	Support Vehicle
SV 03 (CEM 42054)	Nissan NP 300	On-Run	7	Support Vehicle
SV 04 (CEM 30870)	Ford Ranger SC	On-Run	4	Support Vehicle
SV 05 (CEM 8219)	Ford Ranger XL 4x2	On-Run	3	Support Vehicle
SV 06 (CEM 13012)	Nissan Hard Body	On-Run	17	4x2 Skid unit
SV 07 (CEM 42270)	VW Polo Sedan	On-Run	3	Support Vehicle

SV 08 (cem 11565)	Ford Ranger DC 4x2	On-Run	3	Support Vehicle
SV 09 (CEM 13116)	Ford Ranger XL 4x2	On-Run	3	Support Vehicle
SV 12 (CEM 14938)	Toyota Hilux 2.7i 4x4	Off-Run	18	Support Vehicle
SV 13 (CEM 23784)	Nissan Hardbody NP300 4x4	On-Run	13	Support Vehicle
Specialized Trailers				
Call Sign	Purpose	Barcode	Registration Number	
Tango 1	Rope Rescue	14095	CAM 4600	
Tango 2	Hazmat Trailer	28523	CAM 4601	
Tango 3	Portable dam	14106	CAM 1266	
Tango 4	Skid unit		CEM 3366	
Tango 5	Skid unit	14014	CEM 25651	
Tango 6	SCBA Compressor	06947	CEM 30979	
Tango 7	Temp JOC equipment	06733	CEM 2740	

6.3. Fire Rescue Services Forums

Overstrand Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management participate in the following forums as established by the Sub-Directorate Fire Rescue Services:

- Chief Fire Officers Committee
- Training Workgroup
- Hazmat Workgroup
- Provincial Veld Fire Workgroup
- Ground Operations Workgroup
- Fire Safety Workgroup

6.4. Current Agreements

Type of Agreement	Partner	Purpose	End Date
Service Level Agreement (SLA)	Overberg District Municipality (ODM)	Rendering of Services	No end date; subject to cancellation
Memorandum of Agreement	Working on Fire (WOF)	Ground Team Firefighting	5 January 2028
Memorandum of Agreement	Western Cape Government: Local Government	Information Sharing	No end date

6.5. Developed Pre-Attack Plans

- Betty's Bay & Pringle Bay Wildfire Pre-Attack Plan
- Hemel-en-Aarde Wildfire Pre-Attack Plan

6.6. Incident Command System

Overstrand Municipality promotes the Incident Command System (ICS) as it is the recognised management tool adopted by Western Cape Provincial Government to manage an incident or event efficiently and effectively. For 2023/2024 the following ICS training was provided by Western Cape Provincial Government:

NAME	Date	Venue	Attendees
Planning Section Chief	16 – 19 October 2024	Durbanville	2
ICS 100	26 June 2024	Hawston	21
ICS 200	27 – 28 June 2024	Hawston	21

6.7. Fire and Life Safety

The Fire and Life Safety project was developed in recognition that fire related injuries significantly contribute to premature death, disability, harm, and loss of property to the citizens of South Africa. The emphasis is rather on preventing fire related injuries before they occur.

Fire & Rescue received various public awareness material from Western Cape Provincial Government to disseminate across the jurisdiction. For the reporting year, Overstrand Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management held 46 Fire and Life Safety projects ranging from walk-in groups, Early Childhood Development Centres (ECD), and businesses to name a few.

6.8. Smoke Alarm Campaign

Western Cape Provincial Government yet again embarked on a smoke alarm project for which Overstrand Municipality was a recipient of funding for the procurement of smoke alarms. The project's main objective is to identify, purchase and install the most appropriate smoke alarm for high-risk environments and occupancies.

The output of the procurement of smoke alarms are:

- To manage fire prevention interventions proactively to meet the immediate and longer-term needs of society.
- Preserve a healthy environment and protect lives and property.
- Ensuring that residents have properly installed smoke alarms in all high-risk occupancies.

- Reducing fire deaths, injuries, and property losses.
- Creating positive public relations between the community and the municipal fire and rescue services.

For the reporting year, R500 000 was received for the procurement of smoke alarms. A tender process was already underway, therefore a roll-over was requested to the following financial year as the tender process was not yet finalized by the end of the reporting year. An area has been identified for the receipt of the smoke alarms. Reporting on the dissemination of the smoke alarms will be reported in the following annual report.

6.9. Emergency Control Room

Overstrand Fire, Rescue & Disaster Management have a dedicated Emergency Control Room for call taking and dispatching. The Emergency Control Room receive both emergency and non-emergency calls for the Directorate: Protection Services which include the departments Traffic Services and Law Enforcement Services.

Employed in the Emergency Control Room there are 8 (eight) temporary Emergency Control Room Operators, which are supervised by 2 (two) Senior Emergency Control Room Operators that report to the Principal Administrator: Incident Command Centre, Emergency Control & Support Services

Principal Administrator	1
Senior Emergency Control Room Operator	2
Temporary Emergency Control Room Operator	8

The 8 (eight) temporary Emergency Control Room Operators are placed on 12 hours shifts, commencing at 6am and ending at 6pm, with 2 (two) operators on duty per shift.

For 2023/2024 a total of 4298 incidents were captured on the Computer Aided Dispatch System. The incidents captured can be broken down in the following categories:

Electrical Fire	27
Law Enforcement	580
Structure Fire	103
Non-Emergency	2542
Land Invasion	12
Automobile	194
Wildfire	245
Training	68

Rescue	12
Community Education	42
Fire Safety	91
Inspection	297
Hazmat	15
Fire Hydrant Audit	38
Medical	1
Social Distress	3
Vehicle Checkpoint	12
Animal	9
Flood (Severe weather)	6
Disinfection	1