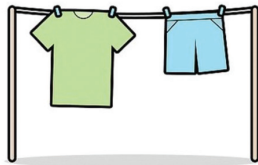


## IMPORTANT MESSAGE ON HOW TO SAVE ELECTRICITY



Towards the end of 2018, the whole country was wrapped in the darkness of the load shedding. Eskom asked consumers to assist in reducing their electricity consumption by at least 10 %. In an attempt to encourage residents to keep on saving electricity, the Overstrand municipality has put together the following precautions: **Tips to better manage electricity usage at home?**

All electricity consumers play a crucial role in achieving energy efficiency in South Africa.

By looking closely at how you use electricity, taking steps to save power where you can and by controlling the use of your appliances, it is actually quite easy to conserve energy, saving you money at the same time. Below are some saving tips that could help you:

- If you're not using an appliance, switch it off.
- A geyser uses 39% of all household electricity; switch it off to save electricity and money.
- Insulate geysers and water pipes as this will help the water to stay hot for longer. Reduce the maximum temperature setting for your geyser/ thermostat, to 60°C and instead of a long bath rather shower, as showers use less water and energy. Energy and water-saving showerheads use less water and electricity.
- Use energy saving globes (CFLs) instead of incandescent bulbs.
- Don't leave TVs, DVD players and other electrical equipment in standby mode - rather switch them off completely.
- The same can be said for plug points and adaptors that hold cell phone chargers or bedside bulbs.
- To save money in your kitchen close fridge doors as quickly as possible when taking items out - do not leave the door open for longer than necessary.
- Keep room temperatures between 18°C and 23°C and wear warm clothes or use hot water bottles and avoid using heaters.

By working together, we can lighten the load on our national grid and at the same time reduce the probability of load shedding.

Stay updated and note that load-shedding is implemented by Eskom and not by Overstrand Municipality. Overstrand Municipality is also entirely dependent on Eskom on updates of load shedding.

Stay informed and be prepared, it is important for every customer to know the answers on, when it is likely that load shedding will next take place?

The outlook for the country's power system can be monitored in the following ways:

- Notices on the Eskom website, www.eskom.co.za
- Eskom App "MyEskom" - free download from apple, windows mobile and android
- Eskom on Facebook and twitter
- Eskom's Bi-weekly Power Bulletin information notices
- Power Alert updates on television
- Information distributed to the local media
- Eskom's Quarterly State of the Power System updates (for Media)
- Ongoing energy efficiency and loss protection programmes - most notably 49M, Integrated Demand Management (IDM), and Operation Khanyisa.

## BELOW-AVERAGE 2018 RAINFALL FOR GREATER HERMANUS

It seems as if residents and visitors to Greater Hermanus supported Overstrand Municipality's water-saving campaign exceptionally well during December.

Over the December 2018 holiday period, the level of the De Bos dam dropped by 5.7%, as opposed to the drop of 8.3% experienced in the same period in 2015, before the drought struck and water restrictions were implemented. The De Bos Dam level was at 58.3% by end December 2018, compared to 56.7% at end December 2017, and 87.9% at end December 2016.

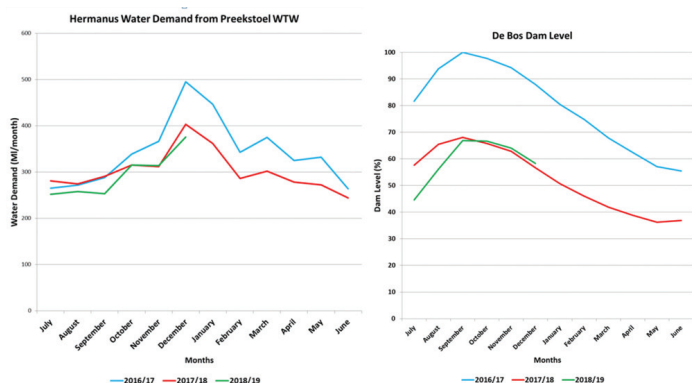
The total water demand in Hermanus for December 2018 was 413.9 Mega litres, compared to 495.6 Mega litres in December 2016, before the drought started.

In expressing his thanks to everyone who contributed to these results, Mayor Dudley Coetzee said he counts on continued support, and undertakes to bring about relief as soon as the water situation returns to normal.

The total rainfall measured during 2018 in Hermanus was 520 mm, resulting in 2018 being the 4th consecutive year with below average rainfall. The long term average rainfall for Hermanus is 620mm per year. Total rainfall measured in 2015 was 510 mm, in 2016 it was 526 mm, with 502 mm measured in 2017.

According to the records of rainfall measured at the municipal offices in Hermanus since 1936, the five years with the lowest rainfall to date were 1973 (365 mm), 1969 (446 mm), 1988 (464 mm), 1975 (468 mm), and 2000 (494 mm).

At this stage, the level 2 water restrictions, including the first level of water saving tariffs, have to be maintained. Properties with even-numbered addresses may water their gardens for maximum one hour, only on Wednesdays, and uneven numbered properties for one hour, only on Tuesdays. No watering may be done between 9:00 and 17:00 on any of these days. Washing of vehicles and hard surfaces with a hose pipe using municipal water is still not allowed.



**QDEN BLAAUW, CLARA LUBBE AND  
LOUIS NEL**

On Sunday, 17 February, music lovers will be treated to the cream of the crop once more when a winner and two runners-up of the NATIONAL YOUTH MUSIC FOUNDATION 2018 COMPETITION will perform in the Civic Auditorium. These young musicians all have to be under 18 to compete and all three have played with various orchestras around the country. Come and listen to Qden Blaauw, Clara Lubbe and Louis Nel on the piano and saxophone.

Performance commences at 15h30. Tickets are R150 (R60 for students) and available from the Tourism Office in Hermanus (028 312 2629). Queries to René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.

# OVERSTRAND WILDFIRES IN A NUTSHELL

**Hermanus and Karwyderskraal.** The first fire in Karwyderskraal started at about 01:00 on Wednesday, 9 January 2019. A team responded immediately as they were busy putting out hot spots in the area. It is believed that the fire which swept through parts of the Hemel-en-Aarde



Valley originated from a fire that broke out in the Karwyderskraal region on Christmas day. On the 11 January in Hermanus another fire started at Hemel en Aarde and it spread to Hermanus CBD. According to the fire Chief Lester Smith, old alien vegetation in the Hemel en Aarde Valley contributed to the rapid spread of the fire. At approximately 13:00 on Friday 11 January 2019, Chief Lester Smith declared a code red at Provincial Government. To assist with this fire, Provincial Government and teams from the Garden Route District Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality, Stellenbosch Municipality, Overberg District Municipality, and Hessequa Municipality were called in. Other agencies such as Working on Fire, Enviro Wildfire, NCC Environmental Services, Limitless, Stem in die Bos (Barry Stander), Volunteer Wildfire Services, Overberg Wildfire Services also assisted. Damages reported in this incident were three structures, including the shed which was destroyed at Camphill.

**Betty's Bay and Pringlebay.** A devastating mountain fire has been raging above Mooiuitsig, Betty's Bay since 1 January 2019. Joint operations by Cape Nature, Overstrand Fire and Rescue, Overberg District Municipality and the City of Cape Town aimed to contain the fire that continued to spread upwards into the steep mountain. Firefighting operations included ground and aerial



resources, but were hampered by fair ups, strong East-Southeasterly winds and the steep mountainous terrain. By 3 January the fire continued to spread towards Pringlebay and by 10 January the fire remained active. On Friday 11 January, soaring flames swept down the mountain above Betty's Bay, approximately 41 houses burned down completely, with 28 partial damages reported. Most residents of Sunny Seas, Betty's Bay only managed to escape with the bare essentials as there was very little time to flee from the fire. The strong winds

and wildfire, resulted in people being evacuated from their homes. Some members of the community lost their homes and all their belongings in the fire. At the time this article was published, the scene has not yet been declared safe.

A man in connection with these devastating fires particularly in Betty's Bay area was arrested. Shelton "Bassie" April from Mooiuitsig, Betty's Bay was arrested on 3 January 2019 and was kept in custody until the 23 January 2019, which was a day to reappear in court.

## BETTY'S BAY FIRE - REWARD OFFER

A reward was offered to anyone who had information that lead to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) who used fireworks / flares in the Kogelberg Nature Reserve in Betty's Bay during the early hours of 1 January 2019.

**A R5 000 reward has since been offered for the perpetrator being identified. Should you have any information in this regard please contact the Fire Services 24-hour emergency control room at 028 312 2400. Alternatively, send an email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.**

**Gansbaai / Franskraal / Masakhane fires.** The fire allegedly started late on Wednesday, 9 January 2019 when a group of protesters set alight bushes near Masakhane after authorities demolished illegally erected structures. This fire was monitored and brought under control by Thursday, 10 January. On Friday, 11 January, protesters set alight again and strong winds caused it to flare up. Blew on by strong winds, the fire then spread towards Franskraal and between 1000 and 1200 people were evacuated. Some houses and structures in Franskraal were damaged, with four houses completely destroyed and two with partial damages. Residents of Gansbaai played an important role to save neighbours' homes and property. Several residents also opened their homes to those who had to evacuate their homes during the blaze. Overstrand Municipality has since offered a R5000 reward for any information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the fire.

**Overstrand Municipality urge residents to please provide any information that can assist with locating and lead to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for starting the fire. Anyone with information in this regard, can contact the Fire Services 24-hour emergency control room at 028 312 2400 or send an email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za.**

**Thank you....** The Overstrand Municipality would like to extend their gratitude to the following municipalities and stakeholders for their support in the fire fighting, traffic and other services:

- Overberg District Municipality
  - GoFPA (Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association)
  - Cape Winelands District Municipality Fire Services
  - City of Cape Town
  - Garden Route District Municipality
  - Stellenbosch Municipality
  - Hessequa Municipality
  - West Coast District Municipality
  - Western Cape Provincial Traffic
  - South African Police Services
  - Neighbourhood watches
  - Local businesses and members of the community for their donations and assistance
  - Working on Fire (Kishugu Aviation)
  - NCC Environmental Services
  - Cape Nature
  - Enviro Wildfire (Pty) Ltd
  - South African National Defense Force (SANDF - Oryx helicopter)
  - Limitless
  - Stem in die Bos (Barry Stander)
  - Western Cape Provincial Government
  - Overberg Wildfire Services
  - Volunteer Wildfire Services
  - FMU's (Fire Management Units)
  - Henley Air
  - EMS (Emergency Medical Services - Metro)
  - EMR (Emergency Medical Response)
  - CMC (Critical Medical Care)
  - ER24 (Emergency Response)
  - Pringle Bay Volunteer Fire fighters
  - Volunteers who assisted at the respective drop-off points
  - All other roleplayers / stakeholders that assisted.
- We apologise for those who have been omitted from the list above, it is not our intention to omit, however the operation went beyond the scope of just the fire services.



## FIRE IS EVERYONE'S FIGHT

Fires in the Overstrand are currently contained and firefighters are continuously monitoring and patrolling affected areas. Mostly mopping-up operations are taking place and ground teams are dealing with flare-ups as and when they occur.

The Overstrand fires which began almost 3 weeks ago have already destroyed over 14 000 hectares of land. In Betty's Bay ± 12 000 ha has burned, ± 1 300 ha in Hermanus and almost 1 000 ha in Franskraal. It is important to note that the area has not yet been declared safe. At one stage, 52 vehicles were counted with 226 firefighters and 8 choppers doing active firefighting with assistance of 8 helitec teams. The number continuously altered, depending on the conditions and where it was needed most.

In Betty's Bay, 41 houses were completely destroyed, with 28 reported partially damaged and at least 3 homes have been damaged or destroyed in Pringle Bay. In Hermanus two houses and 1 shed burned down and in Gansbaai (Franskraal) four houses were completely destroyed and 2 were partially damaged.

*Take note, the final assessment will only be conducted once the scene has been declared safe.*

### DONATIONS

Any donations can be delivered to the Hermanus Fire & Rescue & Disaster Management offices in 14 Mussel Road, Hermanus Industrial Area. They are open 24 hours per day. Please mark clearly where you would prefer it to be distributed.

*Financial donations can be made into the following account:*

**ACCOUNT HOLDER:** Overstrand Municipality  
**ACCOUNT TYPE:** Current Account  
**BANK:** ABSA Bank  
**BRANCH:** Hermanus  
**BRANCH CODE:** 334-812  
**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 3220 000 035  
**PAYMENT REFERENCE:** As per example below:  
 - EMF / GGB / REWARD  
 - EMF / KBB / SUPPORT  
 - EMF / HMS / SUPPORT

*Abbreviations represent the following:*

- EMF = EXECUTIVE MAYOR FUND;
- GGB = GANSBAAI FIRE;
- KBB = BETTY'S BAY FIRE;
- HMS = HEHEL-en- AARDE FIRE;

The last portion of the reference will indicate the intended purpose of the contribution

- Support to use for supporting the fire victims,
- Reward to be utilized as a reward for identifying guilty arsonists.



## REGISTER ON OVERSTRAND'S SMS DATABASE

Account holders can make use of the municipality's SMS database to register their cellphone numbers in order to receive the latest updates on service delivery notifications, such as

- Emergencies, e.g. veld fires, floods and traffic problems;
- Scheduled interruptions during which municipal electricity and water networks will undergo maintenance or repairs, excluding Eskom-controlled interruptions.



## HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE MUNICIPALITY'S SMS SERVICE:

Please send an email to [enquiries@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@overstrand.gov.za) or contact a Client Services Officer at your nearest Municipal offices if you want to activate the SMS service. Please use your municipal account number as your reference. Only one contact number per household.

**KLEINMOND:** 33 Fifth Avenue, Kleinmond; 028 271 8400

**HERMANUS:** Magnolia Street, Hermanus; 028 313 8000/8111

**STANFORD:** 17 Queen Victoria Street, Stanford; 028 384 8500

**GANSBAAI:** Main Road, Gansbaai; 028 384 8300

- Your contact information will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to other parties.