

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT: EVEN THE DARKEST CLOUD OFFERS A RAY OF HOPE

Recently, the South African Local Government Association's Working Group on Emergency and Disaster Management paid a visit to Hermanus.

They came here to not only witness the extent of the damage caused by the devastating level 9 storm first-hand, but also in the interest of formulating actionable solutions to natural disasters based on the lessons Overstrand learnt.

As pointed out by Overstrand's Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie: "Municipalities' infrastructure is not exactly designed to withstand extreme weather events. Yet, climate change is a reality and, as local government, we will be amiss if we do not put our experiences in the interest of improving emergency responses under dire circumstances such as these.

"Undeniably, the aftermath of the storm had a devastating impact on all of our communities. Yet, we hope that the tenacity with which all of us managed to overcome one challenge after the other will contribute to formulating best practices so that local governments throughout South Africa can be better prepared to face natural disasters in future."

Before the visitors were escorted on a site visit to the De Bos Dam and the damaged section of the Bosplasie sewerage pipeline, Overstrand's Municipal Manager, Dean O'Neill, provided a brief summary on how the municipality managed to deal with the severe interruptions to its water and sewerage network.

He also provided feedback on the progress made to date to restore crucial infrastructure.



*"To underscore the storm's devastating impact, the SALGA group also paid a brief visit to Onrus Beach and were afforded a glimpse of the damage caused to the Hemel-en-Aarde Pass."*

## SALE & USE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN



Residents and visitors are yet again reminded that it is strictly forbidden to set off any fireworks and firecrackers in Overstrand Municipality's area of jurisdiction – including beaches and public spaces.

In particular, we urge one and all to refrain from using so-called Chinese lanterns since it is impossible to determine where they may end up and can, potentially, cause a brushfire that could pose a major threat to lives and livelihoods.

Likewise, anyone who sets off an emergency flare other than for the purpose it is intended for will be prosecuted and will face a hefty fine, perhaps even jail time:

- Before you set off that flare, spare a thought for those who really, really find themselves in trouble at sea: Distracting our rescue services by firing off a "false" signal means that we might not be able to rush to the aid of those who are truly in peril. Rest assured, should lives be lost because you wasted valuable response time and resources, you will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

**Note, too, that all shops and street vendors trading in the Overstrand are prohibited from stocking and/or selling fireworks:**

- In cases where shop owners or street vendors are purported to be selling fireworks in contravention of the municipal by-laws issued in terms of the Explosives Act (Act 15 of 2003), they will be arrested by the SAPS and their trading operations will be shut down promptly until such time as a thorough investigation has been concluded.
- In the interest of keeping everyone safe and sound during the festive season, please report illegal trade in and setting off of fireworks to your nearest SAPS station or call Law Enforcement on 028 313 8996.

**In case of an emergency, call the 24-hour control room on 028 312 2400 or call Fire & Rescue on 028 313 8980.**

## BE WILDFIRE COMPLIANT:

**Clear overgrown erven and ready your property now!**



Given that the annual fire season officially commenced on 1 November and will run till the end of May next year, all property owners in the Overstrand should take cognisance of their responsibilities in terms of the safety requirements set out in Section 34 of the Community Fire Safety By-Law.

For its part, the municipality did its utmost to ensure that public open spaces and areas under municipal control are fire compliant and that firebreaks are in place.

We now appeal to **all owners of vacant erven** to ensure that their plots are cleared of alien vegetation (e.g. Port Jacksons) and debris so that the risk of ignition and spread of brushfires to adjacent properties and the veld can be reduced.

Likewise, **owners of built upon properties** are urged to rid their properties of combustible materials by taking the following fire safety precautions as a matter of urgency:

- ➡ Cut back vegetation and remove debris around your home.
- ➡ Make sure your roof and gutters are clean.
- ➡ Move firewood away from your house.
- ➡ Be sure not to store flammable materials such as gas cylinders below decks or verandas.
- ➡ Ensure that your driveway has been cleared of overhanging vegetation and is wide enough to accommodate a fire engine.
- ➡ Keep your garden hose connected at all times.

Open fires are a common cause of uncontrolled fires and for that reason, it's not a good idea to start a fire when it's hot and dry, and especially not when it's windy.

Also burning candles, braai fires or other open flames should never be left unattended.

**WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S BOUND TO BE A FIRE!**

**Please be vigilant: If you detect smoke and suspect that a brushfire might be the cause, call Overstrand Fire & Rescue on 028 312 2400 immediately!**

## LATEST ON WATER-PRESSURE ISSUES IN DE KELDERS



Early in November, the contracted consultants Neil Lyners & Associates provided feedback to the community on their findings as to the possible causes of the regular water pipe breakages experienced in De Kelders.

In the main, they found that the way in which the water network is currently operated results in static pressure of between 6-9 Bar in the system.

This relatively high pressure overall is exacerbated by the age of the water reticulation system and the current level of the reservoir.

To address the problem, their recommendation is that additional pressure-reducing valves be installed and that certain changes to the pipe layout be considered.

Preliminary indications are that the cost to affect the above will amount to approximately R1,5 million.

Given that capital works are involved, funding sources will have to be identified and Council approval must be obtained before the works can be commissioned.

As a next step, Executive Mayor Dr Annelie Rabie requested the consulting engineers to refine their costing and to provide advice on residential pressure-release valves.

At the time of the feedback session, it was also agreed that residents can apply for a rebate in instances where higher-than-average water bills can be ascribed to broken pipes and water leakages due to the higher pressure.

The rebate will be calculated based on the difference between average monthly use compared to corresponding months in the previous year and the actual readings after the pipe breaks.

## WATER METER READINGS

Even though Overstrand Municipality attempts to read water meters on average every 30 days, occurrences such as public holidays and severe storms can disrupt this cycle.

It seldom happens that both such events will occur in a single calendar month, but in September this year, it did.

Consequently, in some areas such as Hawston, water meter readings were delayed by eight to eleven days on average.

As a result, water consumption reflected on the affected areas' October municipal accounts will exceed 30 days.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused and would like to remind the public that they are welcome to approach the municipality should they experience any difficulties with the settlement of their municipal accounts.

Note, too, that even though no water was available in many areas during the week following the storm, the zero usage during that time will only be reflected in November's municipal accounts.



## WATER RESTRICTIONS

Even though water restrictions have been lifted, clause 42(1)(f) of the Water Services By-law will remain in effect.

Accordingly, no municipal water may be used for irrigation purposes between the hours of 09:00 and 17:00 daily.

Also, in light of the heightened demand that the municipality is bound to experience in the months ahead, one and all are urged to use water sparingly.

"This plea despite," Mayor Rabie said, "I want to reassure all who made plans to visit the Overstrand this summer that our towns are safe and sound.

"The quality of the potable water delivered via our reticulation system complies with the highest standards, and all our water treatment works are up and running and geared to deal with the demand.

"Rest assured: We are going full out to ensure that your stay with us will be a time to remember for all the right reasons."

## 12-hour power outage in Gansbaai/Hermanus/Stanford now scheduled for 25 January 2024

Eskom has notified Overstrand Municipality that the 12-hour scheduled maintenance of their substation in Hermanus will take place on 25 January 2024.

The alternative date is 1 February 2024.

The outage will last from 06:00 till 18:00 and will affect Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus and Sandbaai as well as a couple of streets in Onrus.

## DISPOSING OF HOUSEHOLD WASTE:

### RECAPPING THE RULES, ARRANGEMENTS & LIMITATIONS

Household waste must be placed out for collection by 07:00 on the morning of the scheduled waste-collection day only.

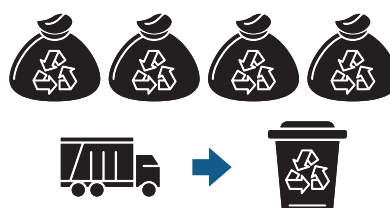
- No waste, be it in wheelie bins or bags, may be left on the pavement overnight.
- In designated baboon affected areas, all household waste must be secured in locked baboon-proof bins.

#### The following limitations apply:

- **Wet waste:** Each household is allowed to place out one 240ℓ wheelie bin or a maximum of four bags.
- **Garden waste:** No more than one bag containing garden waste may be placed out for collection.
- **Recyclable waste:** There is no limitation on the number of clear plastic bags containing recyclable waste (e.g. glass, plastic, cardboard, paper and tins) that can be placed out for collection. Note, too, that every clear plastic bag placed out by a household will be replaced with a new one, free of charge.

#### Disposing of excess garden waste:

- **All excess garden waste** must be transported at own cost to the nearest transfer station, garden waste drop-off facility or the landfill site in Gansbaai.
- **These facilities are open** from 08:00 till 18:00 on weekdays as well as on Saturdays and public holidays.
- **The Karwyderskraal regional landfill site** (operated by the Overberg District Municipality) is another alternative. Note, though, that this site operates on weekdays only and that a permit will be required before access is allowed.





## OVERSTRAND TO UNFURL EIGHT BLUE FLAGS THIS SUMMER!



Overstrand's Grotto, Hawston, Kleinmond and Castle Beach in Pearly Beach have earned Blue Flag status for the upcoming 2023/24 holiday season. Pictured at the National Blue Flag Season launch are George Executive Mayor, Leon van Wyk (left), WESSA CEO Helena Atkinson and Overstrand Blue Flag co-ordinator Lauren Rainbird.

On 20 October, the 2023/24 Blue Flag season was officially launched in Wilderness, and Overstrand Municipality is proud to announce that four of its beaches (Kleinmond, Hawston, Grotto and Castle Beach) retained their Blue Flag status.

In addition, the two whale-watching boats (*Whale Whisperer* and *Dream Catcher*) and the shark-cage diving vessel (*Slashfin*) also retained their status with newcomer, the White Shark Diving Company, being awarded full Blue Flag status for the first time.

Unfortunately, due to severe storm damage, Onrus Beach lost its Blue Flag status for this season and will now revert to pilot status until such time as regular water sampling proves that the beach yet again meets WESSA's stringent criteria. [For the latest on the general safety of this beach, see article below.]

Coordinated by the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) in partnership with the global Foundation for Environmental Education, the Blue Flag programme affords recognition to beaches, marinas and vessels for their outstanding contributions towards sustainable coastal management.

"Tourists the world over have come to recognise a Blue Flag as a sign of top quality that attests to sustainable practices and innovative approaches to conservation, education and community involvement," Overstrand Executive Mayor Dr Annelie Rabie said.

"We owe a great deal of gratitude to all stakeholders who work tirelessly to ensure that Overstrand can continue flying these 'draw cards' year after year. Thanks to you, our place on the 'global tourism map' remains safe and sound."

In South Africa, a total of 48 beaches, four marinas and six tourism vessels have been awarded full Blue Flag status for the 2023/24 season while a further 23 sites will be participating in the pilot programme.

### 2023/24 Blue Flag Season dates are Grotto:

01/12/2023 – 31/03/2024, Kleinmond: 01/12/2023 – 17/01/2024,  
Hawston: 01/12/2023 – 17/01/2024 and Castle Beach: 01/12/2023 – 17/01/2024.  
(Pilot Blue Flag status for Onrus Beach).

## READYING ONRUS BEACH FOR THE 2023/24 SEASON

By now, it is general knowledge that the Bosplasie sewer line washed away during the level 9 storm that hit Overstrand on 25 September 2023.

"Even though the manholes still need to be secured and the height of the pump station raised, we are delighted to report that all connections have been restored and that further contamination from this source is highly unlikely," Overstrand Executive Mayor Dr Annelie Rabie said.

"Given that the Onrus beach and estuary took a serious hammering, a major concern was that both will remain unfit for recreational use for quite some time.

"However, most of the debris has now been cleared and the contractors are doing their utmost to complete their work before they take a break mid-December – a break that is indeed well-deserved since they managed to complete the bulk of the work a mere six weeks after disaster. What an achievement! Thank you!

"In short, even though Onrus Beach may not be flying a Blue Flag this year, we are delighted that it will be safe and open for public use this season – a blessing indeed."



## NOT YET REGISTERED ON OVERSTRAND'S DATABASE? DO SO WITHOUT DELAY!

Unfortunately, given the unreliable nature of the postal services, Overstrand will in future only deliver municipal accounts via e-mail and/or SMS.

- Rate payers who have not registered on our database yet must please do so without delay.
- Those who have already registered must please make sure that their contact details are current.

### TO REGISTER | CORRECT YOUR DETAILS, DO THE FOLLOWING:

- Send an e-mail to [enquiries@overstrand.gov.za](mailto:enquiries@overstrand.gov.za) clearly stating the following:
  - Your account number
  - Your full name
  - Your mobile number
  - Your e-mail address
- In the same e-mail, also indicate whether you want to receive your detailed municipal account via e-mail or SMS.
- Account holders who opt for the SMS option must please note that only one cell phone number per household/account can be accommodated.

### DON'T HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS? NO PROBLEM.

If you are unable to send an e-mail, visit your nearest municipal rates hall in Gansbaai, Stanford, Hermanus or Kleinmond or call one of the following numbers during office hours. We will ensure that you are registered on the database and that you can receive your statements via SMS notification in future.

### Gansbaai Administration

028 384 8300

### Stanford Administration

028 341 8500

### Hermanus Administration

028 313 8027 | 8933 | 5060 | 8042

### Kleinmond Administration

028 271 8400



## TANKER CALLOUTS: INCREASED LEVY FOR AFTER-HOUR SERVICES WAIVED UNTIL 15 DECEMBER 2023

AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER, owners of single residential properties with conservancy or septic tanks were notified that a new pricing structure for the rendering of tanker services will be applied with immediate effect.

This drastic move came about because residents and establishments such as guesthouses were seemingly under the impression that they could order a tanker service on command (i.e. for a specific date and time) as often as they want.

Up and until November 2023, calculating the costs to deliver tanker services was based on 70% of water consumption per property; irrespective of how many times tanker services were requested.

Given the high demand for extra tanker services, especially after hours, the situation became untenable since all associated costs could simply no longer be covered. For that reason, Overstrand Municipality had to amend its pricing structure.

As and from 1 November 2023, owners of single residential properties can choose between one of two options, **provided the tanker service is requested before 15:00 on weekdays**:

### Option 1:

- ❖ Pay a basic fee of R114.22 plus the infrastructure levy of R14.98 per month only, with the understanding that every time a tanker service is requested, this service will be charged per removal at R779.03 per 6 kℓ or part thereof.

### Option 2:

- ❖ Pay a basic fee of R169.51 plus R19.19 per kℓ of water used per month, based on a maximum of 35 kℓ per month (70% of 50 kℓ) plus the infrastructure levy of R14.98 per month. This will entitle you to tanker callouts at no additional charge.
- ❖ However, should the maximum of 35 kℓ per month be exceeded, R779.03 per 6 kℓ or part thereof will be payable per extra removal.

The municipality also announced that in future, irrespective of the option exercised, **a surcharge of R1 558.07 per 6 kℓ or part thereof will be levied for all callouts after hours or over weekends.**

In response to the municipal notice, it quickly came to the fore that establishments such as guesthouses needed a little leeway so that they can prepare for the upcoming holiday season.

For that reason, Council agreed to waive the increased levy for after-hour tanker callouts until 15 December 2023.

However, we must yet again emphasise that Overstrand Municipality is in no position to deliver tanker services on demand: It is up to you to act responsibly by allowing a lead time of at least two to three days when you book a tanker service.

For clarity on the "amnesty period", please call **028 313 8000/8912** or contact your nearest administration.



## 7 OUT OF 9 ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY GENERATORS NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL



**Kraaibosch Dam Raw Water PS,  
Gansbaai**



**Mossel River sewerage pump  
station in Hermanus.**

Over the past couple of months, *Bulletin* kept readers abreast of the progress made with the installation and commissioning of emergency generators at nine of Overstrand Municipality's water reticulation and waste-water treatment plants.

Procuring these generators was, in part, made possible by the Western Cape Government's reserve fund for unforeseen and unavoidable events.

Despite the generous contribution of R6.7 m, Overstrand Municipality had to allocate a further R4.7 m of its own funds to ensure that these critical facilities are safeguarded against prolonged load-shedding.

Having been subjected to a whole array of pre-commissioning tests, seven of these emergency generators are now fully operational.

The exceptions are the generators installed at the Mossel River sewerage pump station in Hermanus and the one installed at the Palmiet River raw water booster pump station in Kleinmond.

"In order to stabilise the changeover between Eskom and generator power at these facilities, additional equipment is required and since acquisition of the latter involves utilising own funds, a completely separate procurement process must be followed. That process is now underway and we hope to conclude it as soon as possible," Mayor Rabie reported.

"We are most appreciative of the provincial government's generous contribution, but must caution that installing and commissioning the emergency generators made a considerable dent in our budgeted provision for capital works.

"Also keep in mind that maintaining and operating these additional diesel generators are bound to put further unforeseen pressure on the municipality's operational budget – the extent of which is wholly dependent on the frequency and the level of load-shedding Eskom implements over time," she cautioned.

## CAN'T GET TO OVERSTRAND TRAFFIC DURING THE WEEK?

### WE WILL BE OPEN ON SATURDAY (2 AND 9 DECEMBER 2023)

During the week, many people can't take time off or have the means to travel from their place of work to Overstrand Traffic's offices in Hermanus.

For that reason, our offices are open every alternative Saturday from 08:30 till 12:00 to assist those who wish to:

- renew their driver's licences/PDBs/vehicle registrations
- book a learner's/driver's licence test
- make arrangements for roadworthy testing/have their vehicles tested
- pay a traffic fine

The Hermanus Licensing and Registration Office / Vehicle Testing Station are situated on the corner of Short and Mussel Streets in Hermanus' industrial area.

Our normal operating hours are from 08:00 – 15:15, Mondays to Fridays, and you can call us on 028 313 1044 / 8031 during those hours should you have any queries.

### SIMPLY NEED TO PAY A FINE / RENEW A VEHICLE REGISTRATION?

**Consider visiting a traffic office closer  
to you (i.e. Kleinmond or Gansbaai).**

**They are  
open from  
08:00 – 13:00  
13:45 – 15:15  
on weekdays.**

