



Flood Management Contingency Plan

Read in conjunction with the Overstrand Disaster Management Plan

2025/2026

EMERGENCY FLOOD PLAN

Flood plans can enable a flexible response to problems caused by flooding. Although barriers may protect potential flood areas from predictable tidal or storm surges, flooding can occur at any time due to:

- Prolonged or intensive rainfall.
- Abnormally high river levels.
- Major storms, tidal waves or tsunami.

FLOOD WARNINGS

Overstrand's Head of Fire- & Disaster Management is kept informed by the District Municipality Head of Disaster Management as well as City Cape Town Head of Disaster Management. A typical flood warning time is around 30 to 60 minutes. Overstrand's Head of Fire & Disaster Management has the capability to issue flood warnings via text, radio or public address systems.

Sample flood warning messages are:

- Flood Alert – Flooding is possible.
- Flood Warning – Flooding of homes, businesses and main roads is expected.
- Severe Flood Warning – Severe flooding may cause Imminent danger.
- All Clear – No Flood Alerts or Warnings are in force.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

When a flood warning message is received, Overstrand Disaster Management will alert relevant agencies/ departments. Depending upon the scale of potential flooding, the main challenges may include:

- Care of evacuated, hurt or homeless people.
- Protection of utilities.
- Transport Availability.
- Flood alleviation e.g. clearing blocked culverts and drains.
- Providing emergency health advice.
- Providing road barriers and signs.
- Coordinating emergency support.
- Activation of the Incident Command Centre.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (SAPS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC)

Primary responsibilities:

- Assist evacuation.

- Provisionally identify deceased victims (SAPS).
- Restore normality.

INCIDENT COMMAND AND EMERGENCY CONTROL

Primary Incident Command and Emergency Control responsibilities.

- Call-taking and dispatching resources.
- Establishing of ICP.
- Activating additional resources.
- Activating external role players.
- Informing directorates as per the instruction of the Incident Commander.
- Record keeping of the incident (incident documents).

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Primary fire service responsibilities:

- Rescue trapped casualties.
- Control fires released chemicals and other hazards.
- Assess hazards concerning evacuation.
- Ensure the safety of rescue personnel.
- Minimize environmental dangers.
- Recover dead in conjunction with the SAPS.
- Stand by during recovery.
- Deploy sandbags for flood defense.

AMBULANCE SERVICES

Primary ambulance service responsibilities:

- Save lives in conjunction with other emergency services.
- Extricate, assist and stabilize injured people.
- Provide ambulances, medical staff, equipment and resources.
- Establish effective triage points and systems.
- Provide a central point for medical resources.
- Alert receiving hospitals.
- Provide transport for medical teams and their equipment.
- Arrange transport for injured people.
- Maintain emergency cover.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Primary Disaster Management responsibilities:

- Coordinate local resources and use of equipment.
- Liaison with relevant emergency services.
- Provide communication facilities.

- Advise residents of flood-prone areas to obtain sandbags.
- Advise on weather, water flow, warnings and evacuation.
- Issuing warning messages to local authorities.
- A single point of contact for information.
- Issue media statements and situation updates.

ADVICE FOR PUBLIC

- FLOOD WARNING: 'GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN.'
- Stay calm.
- Ensure that neighbours know of the warning and be prepared to help them.
- Keep a list of useful telephone numbers.
- Monitor local radio stations.
- Make a flood kit: medications, warm clothing, sealed food, blankets, matches, candles, flashlights, portable radio, spare batteries, rubber gloves, water purification tablets, personal documents etc.

PERSONAL FLOOD PLANS

- Discuss a plan with family members, friends and neighbours.
- Know how to disconnect gas, electricity and water supplies.
- Know where to move vehicles in an emergency.
- Store valuable property in a raised secure location.
- Fill containers with clean water (Avoid using flood waters or local waters).
- Care for the needs of pets and domestic animals.

REMEMBER

If you live in a flood-risk area, have:

- Sufficient sandbags or other devices to block doors, ventilators and openings.
- Appropriate insurance cover.
- Essential sealed foods, as food supplies may become limited.

If evacuated, you may not be able to return to your property for some time.

IF FLOODING IS IMMINENT

- Turn off electricity and gas.
- Move family members, pets and supplies upstairs.

SANDBAGS

- Fill sandbags not more than $\frac{3}{4}$ full
- Lay them in layers with each row tight to each other, end to end
- Stamp them down before laying another row on top
- If a wall is more than two sandbags high, place a double line of bottom sandbags, followed by a second double line and then a single line on top.
- Make sandbags with compost bags, carrier bags or pillowcases filled with sand or earth.
- Put a plastic sheet down first to act as an extra seal.
- Protect all water entry points including air bricks, air vents and utility openings.
- If gas vents are sealed, disconnect any gas supply.
- Seals around doors and windows should be made watertight.
- It can take 60 sandbags to correctly seal an external door.

GENERAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Do not walk, drive or swim through floods.
- Be aware of hidden dips in a road.
- Floods often contain sewage.
- Avoid food that may have been contaminated by floodwater.
- Avoid wet electrical equipment.
- Ventilate your property as much as possible, while maintaining security.
- If evacuation is necessary, follow police advice from Law Enforcement and Security Services.