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Flood Management Contingency Plan

Read in conjunction with Overstrand Disaster Management Plan

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 Head of Fire- & Disaster Management is kept informed by 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 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 difficulties may include:

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



LOCAL AUTHORITIES (SAPS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TRAFFIC)

Primary responsibilities:

- Assist evacuation
- Provisionally identify deceased victims (SAPS)
- Restore normality

FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES

Primary fire service responsibilities:

- Rescue trapped casualties
- Control fires, released chemicals and other hazards
- Assess hazards concerning evacuation
- Ensure 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 neighbors 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 neighbors
- 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 water)
- 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, 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.

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