



co-operative governance  
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Litiko  
Lekubusa  
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Departement van  
Koöperatiewe Regering  
en Tradisionele Sake

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **MEC FOR COGTA CAUTION COMMUNITIES AGAINST THE OUTBREAK OF FIRES DURING THIS WINTER SEASON**

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) Ms Refilwe Mtshweni has cautioned all communities to take precautions during the winter season, as Mpumalanga is prone to fires.

The department's Disaster Management unit is working together with all the 21 municipalities in the fire awareness campaigns to educate communities about the dangers and the need to prevent possible outbreak of fires. "We have observed with concern that some of our people make open fires in the mornings while waiting for transportation to work, and leave them unattended to. This has the potential to cause uncontrollable fires due to morning winds, and create disasters which can lead to loss of lives," MEC Mtshweni cautioned.

She further urged communities to take precautionary measures to save their lives, animals and the infrastructure. She advised communities about the following:

- Parents should never leave unattended fire braziers ( mbawula) with children.
- Ensure that properties are clear of rubble at least 10-20 metres around the house as this may comprise of burning materials such as leaves and wood piles.
- Communities should also ensure that route to their properties are clearly marked and numbered for easy access by the Fire Services.

MEC Mtshweni says all emergency units are on high alert in the province to deal with any potential outbreak of fires. She advised communities to call the Provincial Disaster Toll free number for emergencies. The number is **0800 202 507**.

**Issued by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs  
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