



co-operative governance
& traditional affairs

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No. 6, Ext 2, No. 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Mbombela, 1200, Mpumalanga Province
Private Bag X11304, Mbombela, 1200. Int Tel: +27 (13) 766 6087, Tel: (013) 766 6087
Int: Fax: +27 (13) 766 8252, Fax: (013) 766 8252

Litiko
Lekubusa
ngekubambisana
netebuholi bendzabuko

Departement van
Koöperatiewe Regering
en Tradisionele Sake

umNyango
wezekuBusa
ngokuHlanganyela
neeNdaba zamaKhosi

Ref: 9/4/1

MEDIA INVITATION

**All Editors
All Media Houses**

MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS CUATIONS COMMUNITIES ON UNWANTED VELD FIRES

In Mpumalanga, veld and forest fires are a common feature of landscape, and are the inevitable consequence of a combination of fire-prone vegetation and a warm, dry climate. The nature of the climatic conditions and vegetation in the Mpumalanga leads to unwanted fires in winter season. Ordinarily winter fire season starts in May and ends in October

MEC Speed Mashilo of COGTA says COGTA's Disaster Management unit and Disaster Management units in municipalities are on high alert to provide support and monitor the weather conditions to deal with potential disasters in case of emergencies. "We appeal to all our communities to take precautionary and safety measures in cases where unwanted fires erupt to prevent a loss of lives." MEC Mashilo said.

Mashilo further advised communities about the following:

- Don't make fires in the open and/or leave fires unattended
- Don't throw cigarette butts out of cars or in the open veld
- Don't throw bottles in the veld as they can magnify the sun's rays and start fires
- In the case of a large fires, report it immediately and move away from the area to let the professionals deal with it
- Never throw water onto a fire started by an electrical fault or fires started by oil or paraffin lamps, rather use sand or a blanket to smother the fire
- Listen to the radio or TV for warnings and follow instructions from Emergency Practitioners

Normally when temperature and the humidity is high at the same time or when the temperature exceeds a certain threshold, human's ability to cool their bodies through sweating is reduced. This can be a real threat that leads to hyperthermia. Stay indoors in a cool room near a fan if possible. The old and infirm must take extra care to stay hydrated and cool. Avoid strenuous outdoor activity, playing excessive sport and hard labour. Dress in light weight clothes and drink plenty of liquids NOT alcohol.



Communities are urged 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

Contact Person: Mr George Mthethwa

Contact number: 013 766 6572 / 083 302 2774

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E-mail: gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za