

## PRIVATE GROUP TO INVESTIGATE HIGHLANDS KLEINMOND FIRE



In a statement issued by Executive Mayor Annelie Rabie, it was announced that Overstrand Municipality has retained the services of Enviro Wildfire Services to conduct an investigation into the recent fire in the Highlands Kleinmond area.

All indications thus far are that the fire, which destroyed more than five thousand hectares of fynbos and around ten thousand hectares of cultivated land, originated on a property owned and operated by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

Enviro Wildfire is a private group that provides fire-fighting organisations with specialised services. It also renders fire-fighting support in times of need, such as was the case with the Highlands Kleinmond fire.

For days on end, volunteers from all over fought alongside fire-fighting teams from Overstrand, the City of Cape Town, CapeNature and Working on Fire to get the fire under control.

"Thanks to their valiant efforts, and the generous support offered by the public, any loss of life and major damage to properties and infrastructure could be avoided. For that, we are most thankful," the Mayor said.

Whilst awaiting the outcome of Enviro Wildfire's investigation, all property owners living on the urban edge are yet again urged to keep their access roads clear of thick vegetation as well as to keep an area of at least five metres around their homes and buildings clear of combustible vegetation so as to give fire fighters a chance to save their homes during runaway brush fires. Owners of small holdings and farms in the Overberg District are also encouraged to join the Greater Overberg Fire Protection Association without delay.

## TRAFFIC OFFICES' OPERATING HOURS

Traffic offices in Kleinmond and Gansbaai will be open between 08:00 and 13:00 and from 13:45 till 15:15 on weekdays (i.e. Monday to Friday).

In Hermanus, traffic offices will be open on weekdays (i.e. Monday to Friday) from 08:00 till 15:15.

In addition, the Hermanus licensing and vehicle registration office will be open between the hours of 08:30 and 12:00 on Saturday 12 and 26 February 2022.

## WATER QUALITY AT MUNICIPAL WATER SCHEMES

DESCRIPTION OF TEST	UNIT	STANDARD AS PER SANS 0241	AVERAGE TEST RESULTS FOR POTABLE WATER TEST SAMPLES AT:									
			BR	KM	HM	SF	GB	DK	PB	BB	BJB	
pH	(pH) units	≥ 5 to ≤ 9,7	6,4	8,6	6,9	7,6	6,6	7,0	7,2	9,4	7,6	
Electrical conductivity	mS/m	≤ 170	13,1	20,8	39,2	45,7	56,2	41,2	47,9	70,6	167,0	
Turbidity	NTU	≤ 1	0,6	0,5	0,6	0,4	0,6	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,3	
Colour	mg/l as Pt-Co	≤ 15	10,0	10,2	10,0	10,0	10,0	10,0	10,0	10,2	10,0	
Iron	µg/l as Fe	≤ 300	59,8	65,5	20,4	-	20,0	-	21,8	20,0	20,0	
Manganese	µg/l as Mn	≤ 100	-	-	34,4	-	-	-	-	21,6	-	
Aluminium	µg/l as Al	≤ 300	162,0	114,5	94,6	-	219,7	-	82,0	-	-	
E.coli	Count/100ml	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total Hardness	MGL AS CACO <sub>3</sub>	-	18	25,5	41,6	125,7	65,9	78,1	73,2	31,1	316,5	

\* BR: Buffelsrivier | KM: Kleinmond | HM: Hermanus | SF: Stanford | GB: Gansbaai | DK: De Kelders | PB: Pearly Beach | BB: Baardsekerendbos | BJB: Buffeljagbaai

The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) recommends that municipalities periodically publish information on the quality of drinking water supplied to consumers.

Water quality is measured against Code 0241 as set by the South African National Standards (SANS) for drinking water.

On the accompanying drinking water quality table the average scores attained by Overstrand Municipality's nine water treatment plants from April 2021 to September 2021 can be seen. Water samples are collected monthly by an accredited laboratory where different bacteriological, chemical and physical parameters are measured.

Overstrand Municipality's water quality is of an outstanding quality, with 100% of the average results complying with Code 0241 as set by the South African National Standards (SANS) for drinking water.

When the drinking water quality does not comply with SANS 0241, corrections are made at the water purification works and in the reticulation network if applicable. The drinking water quality is then retested against the SANS 0241 limits for compliance.

## WASTE WATER EFFLUENT QUALITY

DESCRIPTION OF TEST	UNIT	DWS GENERAL AUTHORISATION STANDARDS	AVERAGE TEST RESULTS FOR FINAL EFFLUENT TEST SAMPLES AT:						Hermanus Permit Authorisation Standards
			PEARLY BEACH	GANSBAAI	HAWSTON	STANFORD	KLEINMOND	HERMANUS	
pH	(pH)	5.5-9.5	8,8	6,5	7,4	7,7	7,3	7,4	5.5-9.5
Electrical conductivity	(mS/m)	150	170	124	156	139	105	160	5000
Faecal coliform bacteria	(count/100ml)	1000	122	252	66	382	12	620	1000
Chemical oxygen demand	(mg/l)	75 Max	314	59	74	29	73	44	75 Max
Ammonia nitrogen	(mg/l as N)	6 Max	5	3	8	1	21	4	7 Max
Nitrate nitrogen	(mg/l as N)	15 Max	0,4	13,0	1,0	7,9	4,7	4,3	17 Max
Nitrite nitrogen	(mg/l as N)		0,9	0,7	0,4	0,1	0,7	0,7	
Total suspended solids	(mg/l)	25 Max	100	2	2	2	10	2	25 Max
Ortho-phosphate	(mg/l as P)	10 Max	4	8	5	4	3	3	10 Max

(Applicable to all WWTWs except Hermanus)

The Department of Water & Sanitation (DWS) recommends that municipalities periodically publish information on the quality of drinking water supplied to consumers as well as final waste water effluent quality results.

Waste water effluent quality is measured against standards as set by DWS, which are classified as either General Standards, or Special Standards.

The table for waste water effluent quality illustrates Overstrand Municipality's average effluent quality parameter measurements at the six treatment plants over the past six months. Samples are taken for analysis on a monthly basis by accredited laboratories.

Overstrand Municipality's final waste water effluent quality complies 89% overall.

When the final effluent quality does not comply with the General Standards, corrections are made at the treatment works. The final effluent quality is then re-tested against the General Standards for compliance.



## PUT PERSONAL SAFETY FIRST WHEN FROLICKING IN THE WAVES

As much as Overstrand is renowned for its delightful beaches where holidaymakers and residents can laze in the sun and cool off in the ocean during the hot summer days, this part of the coast is, unfortunately, also prone to rough seas and rip currents.

### For the sake of your personal safety:

- Preferably swim where lifeguards are on duty and follow their instructions at all times, including not venturing outside the safe zone demarcated by red and yellow flags.
- If no lifeguards are on duty, never go swimming unaccompanied. Be sure that at least one other person will be watching you from the beach and that that person will be able to spot you in the breakers at all times.
- It is extremely dangerous to practise any form of water sport (swimming, surfing, paddle skiing, etc.) when under the influence. Drugs and alcohol dull the senses, slow reactions and cause irresponsible behaviour.
- Always pay attention to the condition of the sea. If a storm is brewing or if a spring tide is due, best to avoid the ocean all together.
- Know how to spot a rip current. The NSRI advises that you should look out for:
  - Water through a surf zone that differs in colour from the surrounding water
  - A change in the incoming pattern of waves (waves often do not break in a rip channel)
  - Seaweed, sand 'clouds' or debris moving out to the backline where waves are forming through the surf zone
  - Turbulent or choppy water in the surf zone in a channel- or river-like shape flowing away from the beach
- If you are caught in a rip current, the most important thing to remember is: Do not panic.
- Stay calm and force yourself to relax. You are not going to win a fight with the ocean.
- A rip current will not pull you under the water. So long as you can float, you will be safe until you can escape the current.
- Swim slowly and conservatively to the side and out of the current or relax and let it carry you out past the breakers until the current slackens and then make your way back to the beach.

### If you see someone in trouble in the sea, don't put your own life in danger as well. Alert the lifeguards or seek help:

- ➔ To report a sea rescue emergency, dial 112 from your mobile or contact NSRI Hermanus on 082 990 5967 or NSRI Kleinmond on 063 699 2765.
- ➔ Alternatively, call Overstrand Municipality's 24-hour Fire & Rescue Emergency Services on 028 312 2400.

## BUTTS BELONG IN THE TRASH, NOWHERE ELSE



Time and time again, clean-up operations point to smokers as major contributors to environmental pollution. Not only is their secondary smoke harmful to those around them, the cigarette butts they so thoughtlessly discard left, right and centre litter our shores, streets, public amenities and parks and have proven to be the cause of many a runaway brushfire.

Contrary to popular belief, cigarette butts are not bio-degradable. Therefore, it makes no sense to bury them in the sand or on the lawn or to chuck them into storm-water drains.

Also, cigarette butts should never, ever been thrown out of a car window:

If you do that and your reckless behaviour causes a fire, expect to be prosecuted to the hilt.

Overstrand Municipality appeals to all smokers and business owners to please dispose of cigarette butts in a responsible manner.

If you are out and about, make use of a portable cigarette-butt holder available on the market or simply use an empty bottle laden with a bit of water or sand to dispose of your butts. Then put the lot in the trash.

## RANDOMLY FLUSHING STUFF DOWN THE DRAIN NOT CONDUCTIVE TO YOUR HEALTH

Toilets are meant to dispose of human waste only. Trying to flush anything else such as soiled nappies, wet wipes and cleansing pads or even household chemicals, used cooking oil or paint down the toilet is bound to result in a disaster – not only for you, but also for the environment.

Practices such as those listed above result in blockages and overflows which, inevitably, lead to the pollution of our water supply and major damage to our coastline.

Do keep in mind that even the smallest item, such as a cotton bud, can escape through filters at treatment plants and end up in a river or on a beach.

Clearly, not everything should go down the drain.



### In the interest of preventing blocked outlets and manholes, please follow this advice:

- Before you do the dishes, first wipe/scrape all utensils and dispose of the solids in a waste bin.
  - Be sure to collect all left-over frying oil in a suitable container before disposing with it in a suitable manner.
  - Next, use a strainer in the sink's plug hole to prevent any 'solids' from escaping into the sewer system.
- Property owners are responsible for maintaining the sewer and water pipes on their own yards, but if you suspect that yours might be blocked, you are welcome to report the situation to your nearest municipal office: Kleinmond-Hangklip 028 271 8400, Hermanus 028 313 8090/8997/8137, Gansbaai 028 384 8300, Stanford 028 341 8500.

Sewerage blockages can also be reported to the municipal control room at 028 313 8000/8111 after hours.

## AGED BETWEEN 18 AND 25 YEARS? DON'T MISS OUT ON THESE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The next intake for Chrysalis Academy, a life-skills training programme for young people in the Overstrand, will run from 1 March – 29 April 2022 for males and from 1 July – 31 August 2022 for females.

All the necessary information pertaining to the application process will be communicated closer to these dates.

Those who are interested to join the academy need to be between the ages of 18 and 25 years and be resident of the Western Cape.

They also need to have passed Grade 9, be unemployed, not attend school or be busy with education or training and have no criminal record.

In the interim, applicants are advised to get the necessary paperwork in order.

Candidates need to submit a certified copy of their identity document, proof of address and their most recent school report. Two ID photos and banking details must also be submitted.

Kindly note that applications will only be accepted during the above-mentioned periods.

### About the programme:

The programme is an initiative of the Western Cape Government's Department of Community Safety in partnership with Overstrand Municipality.

The Chrysalis Academy is a leadership development and social crime prevention training institution that works creatively with young people, thereby deepening their resilience and enabling them to take responsibility for their personal growth. The Academy equips them with the necessary life skills, tools and practices to become confident, economically productive and positive role models within their communities. It is available to all youth who meet the criteria.