



Media Release

For Immediate Release

ATT: ALL NEWS EDITORS

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GAUTENG RESIDENTS ARE ADVISED TO PREVENT FIRES DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN AND BEYOND

With the country under lockdown and the winter fast approaching, the dangers and fire risks associated with this time of the year, becomes so much more of a challenge. Given that we are approaching the level 4 of the Lockdown regulations, non-essential workers are still encouraged to stay at home in order to flatten the curve.

The lockdown means that most people are at home during this period. Spending more time at home means that most people might want to heat up their homes especially as temperatures are dropping. It is expected that the use of stoves, open fires, heating devices such as heaters and *imbawulas* will increase during winter. This might lead to an increase in fire related incidents.

With restaurants currently closed, more people do their cooking at home and thereby increasing the risk of fires. With children at home and not attending school during this period, means that parents have their hands full but also more distractions to deal with.

Over the past years, many people particularly those living in informal settlements, have been victims of devastating fires during the winter period. These fires resulted in the loss of many lives and in many cases, severe loss of property.

Many of these fires can be prevented and many lives saved with the necessary preventative measures in place. This is exactly one of the reasons why the COGTA Fire & Rescue Services, supported by municipalities are on a state of readiness to deal with any emergency, including fires across the Province.

To ensure safety of your loved ones please observe the following fire safety tips:

- If you're working from home, ensure that electric plugs are not overloaded.
- Replace frayed electrical cords before they burn or cause a fire.
- Keep combustibles away from hot surfaces, which can emit flames or sparks.
- Avoid smoking in the house.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Keep the handles of pots and frying pans turned inward on the kitchen range so that they cannot be knocked over by accident.
- Bedtime Checks: Close doors, unplug any appliances that feel warm to the touch when connected to power, check that heaters are off, and ensure that any candles and *imbawulas* are properly extinguished.

In case of fire related emergencies call the fire department's call centre within your municipality:

City of Tshwane:107 or 012 310 6300/6400	City of Johannesburg: 011 375 5911
City of Ekurhuleni: 011 458 0911	West Rand District Municipality:107
Sedibeng District: 016 450 3000	Mogale City Local Municipality:107
Lesedi Local Municipality: 016 341 3116	Merafong Local Municipality:107
Midvaal Local Municipality: 016 360 7500	Rand West Local Municipality:107
Emfuleni Local Municipality: (016) 430-1816	

Other important numbers during the lockdown:

Premier Hotline: 08600 11000 (For service delivery related complaints)	COVID-19 24-HOUR HOTLINE NUMBER: 0800 029 999
Gauteng PDMC Operations Centre:010 345 0833/0835	COVID-19 WhatsApp number: 0600 12 3456

A little awareness can go a long way in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and the devastating consequences of fires,

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