



MEDIA RELEASE 3

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Knysna Fire Update Saturday night

FIRE STATUS

Saturday afternoon residents in Brenton were evacuated and advised to go to Knysna High school.

As a precautionary measure Buffels Bay residents were evacuated. The focus was mainly on the elderly and disabled.

A total of six structures have been lost in Greater Knysna today and we regret to report that one firefighter lost his life today.

Two main priorities are the Sedgefield line - one is commencing a back-burn which will reduce the risk on the N2 towards the Eastern Side of the Sea (Goukamma). No evacuation order is in place as the fires are strategically being addressed with 4 ORYX's.

The second priority is Concordia line which is being burnt towards the informal settlement. Tankers are being deployed to this area and aerial resources will be put on this line tomorrow.

The Buffalo Bay line has burnt out, no more risk here. The hotspots on fire that are more visible at night will be monitored throughout the night. The Pezula area towards Noetzie is being managed.

WATER STATUS

The dam level is currently at 31%. Residents are still asked to continue to conserve water and to stay within the daily usage quota of 400 litres per household. Water in the following areas has been stabilised and restored:

- Central Knysna and Town
- Belvidere & Brenton on Lake
- Edameni
- White Location
- Sparrebosch

The following areas are still without water and advised to collect at the nearest distribution centre:

- Brenton-on-Sea
- Simola

ELECTRICITY STATUS

There has been extensive damage on the power lines and residents are asked to be patient. The Knysna Municipal Electrical Department and Eskom have been working on repairing damages. Power in Welbedacht and Western Head electricity has been restored.

Areas currently without power:

- Kanonkop
- Lauren Hill
- Knysna Hollow (unfortunately completely burnt down)
- Welbedacht Estate
- Eastford Ridge
- Eastford Downs
- Green Pastures
- Section of White Location
- Kruisfontein

HUMANITARIAN AID

There has been a spike in the number of people reporting at the mobile medical unit. Staff from Oudsthoorn are assisting in relieving staff and are in place until Monday morning. Capacity has increased between Gift of the Givers and the Emergency Medical Services. The Redcross team went to various centres to determine where the need is.

EVACUATION UPDATE

Please note that ONLY the following evacuated areas and buildings have been declared safe to return to:

- Upper Old Place
- Green Pastures
- The Epilepsy Centre
- Provincial Hospital Hostel
- Hospital Hill (Nissan)
- Leeuwenbosch & Rheenendal
- Belvedere
- Belvedere Heights
- Rhobololo
- Fisherhaven
- Pezula (Hotel)
- The Heads
- Hunter's Home

ENDS

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