



MEDIA RELEASE

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No reason to celebrate Guy Fawkes

In reference to the upcoming British celebration of Guy Fawkes, Knysna Municipal Manager, Kam Chetty quoted Greek philosopher, Plato and said: "Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws."

He was reminding all residents and visitors that, in terms of Community Fire Safety bylaw s28 (3), it is against the law to discharge any fireworks in Greater Knysna. "In addition to this bylaw that reads: 'No one may discharge fireworks in public open areas such as parks and beaches,' the Public Nuisance bylaw prohibits the 'discharge of any fireworks, fire-arms, air guns or air pistols on any premises or in any street or public place.'"

As was the case in previous years, the Knysna Municipal Law Enforcement officials will be visiting Greater Knysna outlets confiscating any fireworks found in their possession. They will further remove any stockpiled tyres found in and around Greater Knysna in an attempt to prevent the illegal burning of these tyres on 5 November.

He added: "We would therefore urge all residents to refrain from any unlawful actions that could result in the damage of roads and/or property. In terms of the Community Fire Safety bylaw, offenders can be fined R500 or, in term of the Public Nuisance bylaw, R1 000. Offender can also be arrested and even criminally or civilly prosecuted."

The operational plan for Guy Fawkes is as follows:

Greater Knysna

- Law enforcement officials are currently removing tyres in all areas and also visiting all retail outlets, confiscating any fireworks found. They will continue to do so until after 5 November.
- Eight law enforcement officials will be on duty within Greater Knysna from Friday, 3 November.
- Law Enforcement will further perform visible policing in known hotspots from Saturday, 4 until Monday, 6 November
- The officer in charge of law enforcement is Lorraine Witbooi and can be contacted at 072 425 1629.

Traffic Department

- Four traffic officers will be on duty to assist law enforcement officials from Friday, 3 November.

In conclusion Chetty said: "I ask that our residents be mindful of our bylaws, especially those that prohibits the letting off of fireworks and refrain from doing so."

ENDS

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