



Knysna

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MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate

DATE: Tuesday 11 November 2025

Khayaletu blaze swiftly contained

The Knysna Fire Department responded to a veldfire reported in the Bongani area at approximately 11:00 a.m. on Monday 10 November. Knysna Executive Mayor Thando Matika confirmed that crews from the Jood-se-Kamp Satellite Fire Station were on the scene within minutes.

Fanned up steep slopes by a strong south-easterly wind, the fire quickly spread in a northern direction. Dense fynbos, pine and eucalyptus added fuel to the flames, with burning canopies allowing the fire to move at speed. While no injuries or loss of life have been reported, approximately 14 structures were destroyed. The final number of affected structures is still to be confirmed.

“We sincerely appreciate the vital assistance our fire department received from the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM), MTO-Kruisfontein, Bitou Municipality Fire & Rescue, the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association, PG Bison and SANParks to contain the blaze and protect nearby homes,” said Matika. “Close to 100 personnel were involved and aerial support was deployed early through coordination between MTO and GRDM. Their combined efforts helped limit further damage and kept the fire from spreading deeper into Khayaletu.”

Mopping-up operations are still underway to ensure all hotspots are extinguished. The Disaster Management Section is assisting affected residents with assessments and essential relief on site.

“We are deeply grateful to Gift of the Givers. Their teams have been incredible in supporting our firefighters with essential supplies such as energy drinks, snacks, eye drops and other relief items,” he continued. “They are working with our Disaster Management Section to assess and assist affected households, and their presence has brought real comfort during an exceptionally difficult time. To ensure an organised and effective distribution of relief, residents are kindly requested to make donations directly to Gift of the Givers.”

“Thank you to all emergency teams and partners for your dedication and rapid response. Your work saved many homes, even as several families suffered the devastating loss of their belongings and dwellings,” Matika concluded. “And thank you to every organisation and individual who stepped forward to help. Your support embodies the strength, unity and resilience that define Knysna.”

ENDS

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