

Fire and Flood Awareness



In case of emergency in areas
outside the City of Cape Town, call:

From a landline: 10177

From a cell phone: 112

http://www.capegateway.gov.za/eng/your_gov/105833

Hello boys and girls. My name is Gerry the Giraffe and I am here to help you prevent fires and floods. My long neck allows me to see over the tallest trees so I can spot danger a mile away. You can help me too by staying alert, planning ahead and calling for help when it comes to fires and floods.



What is a fire?

Fires come in two different forms, veld and informal settlement fires.

Veld fires are any fire that happens outside an area with buildings or houses and runs the risk of running out of control. Veld fires usually occur during the dry season (summer) when it is hot and windy. It is also fueled by dry leaves, wood, dead plants and grass.

Informal settlement fires are fires, which happen randomly within informal settlements, and run the risk of becoming out of control. There are many reasons why informal settlement fires happen but they are usually caused by people who knock over a candle in their shack, or leaves their fires unattended.

Here are some important **fire tips** to help you and your family:

1. Stay alert:

- Fires and cooking stoves should never be left unattended.
- Put out candles and lamps before you go to sleep or leave your home.
- Build homes at least three metres apart to prevent fires from spreading.

2. Plan ahead:

- Keep a bucket of water and a bucket of sand ready to put out small fires before they spread.

3. Calling for help:

- Know your emergency numbers for outside the City of Cape Town 10177 (landline) and 112 (cell phone)
- When you phone, give the full address and a landmark such as a shop or school close to

the fire to enable fire fighters to find you quickly.

What is a flood?

A flood is when there is a rise in water level in the same area until there is too much water for that area to absorb. Floods can be caused by either too much rain in a short space of time, ongoing rain in the same area, blocked rivers and streams from rubbish, failure in dam walls, storm surges (waves being driven ashore by strong winds) or too much water from dams and lakes being released.

Here are some important **flood tips** to help you and your family:

1. Stay alert:

- Head for higher ground and stay away from floodwaters.
- Never try to walk, swim, drive, or play in floodwater.

2. Plan ahead

- Develop an evacuation plan.
- Talk about floods with your family.

3. Calling for help:

- Emergency numbers for outside the City of Cape Town: Landline: 10177
From a cell phone: 112
- Listen to the radio or television for updated emergency information. Local stations provide you with the best advice.

