



Western Cape  
Government

Local Government

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Eagle's View

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# West Coast Red Tide Underway



Millions of crayfish have walked out of the sea in Eland's Bay and Lamberts Bay in recent weeks due to the red tide underway in the West Coast region. The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) have raised the alert level to "red". The toxic red tide caused two tons of dead rock lobster to wash out. Satellite images confirm the affected area starts roughly from Eland's Bay to Doringbaai, covering 80km. The bloom has since spread, moved closer inshore and the density of the phytoplankton has increased.

Lionel Adendorf of DAFF said that the mortalities were a direct consequence of low oxygen waters following the decay of the bloom in near-shore waters. It was difficult to predict at this

point whether more walkouts or washouts are expected. When the walk out is limited, the officials, with the help of other local agencies, are putting stranded West Coast rock lobster back into the waters. Those that do not survive are buried on a spot identified by the local authorities, in this case Cederberg Municipalities.

Red tide refers to the staining of seawater caused by dense concentrations of the marine microorganisms known as the phytoplankton (those microscopic plants that float and drift under the action of ocean currents). Red tides are most common during late summer and autumn. Red tides mainly occur to the west of the country as they are often associated with upwelling, a process driven by the prevailing winds on the West Coast, which causes nutrient-rich waters to rise to the surface.

Owners of fishing factories in the area are also negatively affected as they are unable to trade and export fish.

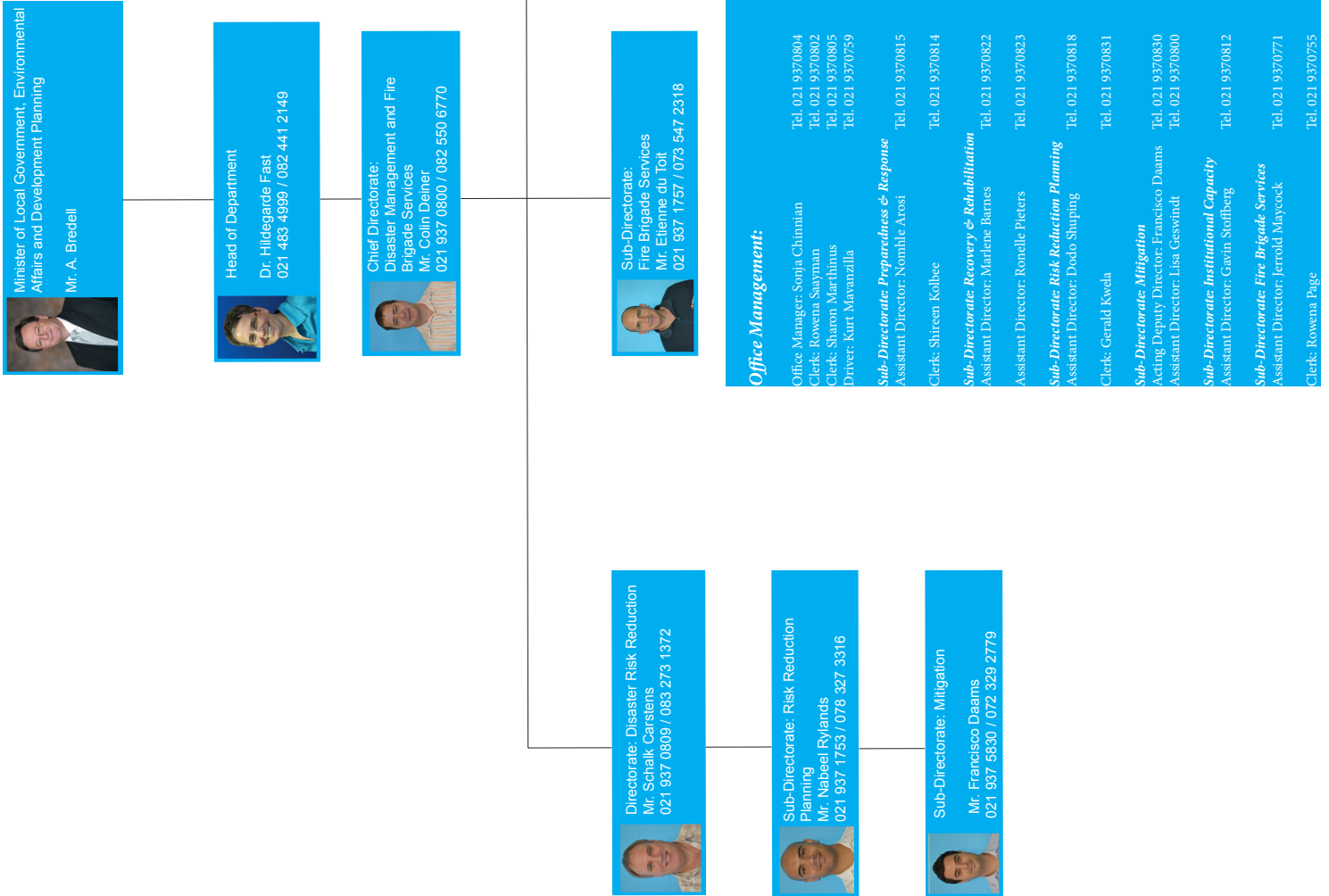
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## Editor's Note

Welcome to the first edition of Eagle's View, a newsletter dedicated to disaster related matters. The main purpose of the newsletter is to facilitate intergovernmental reporting and engagement through a single window of coordination. This involves communication to municipalities and all other relevant stakeholders about disaster related activities and information.

The Disaster Management Newsletter project strives to improve service delivery to affected and vulnerable communities by imparting and sharing crucial and relevant information to all metro, district and local municipalities, as well as all related stakeholders.

# Introducing the PDMC



## Public Awareness Projects: UNISDR Legacy Project: High School Drama Festival

Drama and disasters are the word of the day at the YES High School Drama Festival currently being rolled out by the City of Cape Town's Disaster Risk Management Centre and Environmental Resource Management unit. Groups of high school learners from 16 schools across the City are tasked to plan, design and execute a theatre production, guided by environmental themes such as sea-level rise, fires and floods.

This programme is one of three legacy projects launched on 11 October 2011 at the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction 'Making Cities Resilient' Provincial Disaster Management Centre is a partner in this initiative.



Learners' ideas for content and stage production are guided by theatre and environmental education specialists who assist and advise teams during workshop sessions at the Artscape. This leads up to 'Festival Day' taking place on 27th July 2012 where all the plays will be showcased to peers, teachers and stakeholders. A prize-giving ceremony is scheduled for the following day with various categories up for grabs.

Some of the high schools taking part in the festival include: Aloe High (Mitchells Plain), Beautiful Gate (Cross Roads), Durbanville Children's Home, Edgemead Children's Home, Hottentots Holland High (Somerset West), Malibu High (Eerste River), Islamia College, Queens Park High (Woodstock) and The Settlers High School (Bellville).

The festival aims to educate learners about sustainability and in particular community issues that pertain to natural and man-made disasters. Learners will be able to develop an in-depth understanding of the sustainability challenges people are currently facing, and most importantly, look for locally relevant solutions. It also aims to allow learners to express their life views and concerns, broadening their horizons by experiencing the magic of creating theatre.



## Spotlight on... COLIN DEINER



Colin Deiner started his career in emergency services in South Africa in 1984 when he joined the Pietersburg Fire Department as a trainee firefighter. In 1994 he achieved the highest percentage in the diploma exams of the South African Emergency Services Institute for which he was awarded the prestigious "South African Firefighter of the Year" Award.

During his 21 years' service in formal emergency services, Colin has visited numerous fire services in the United States, Europe and Australia and has worked on many fire and rescue stations during these visits including a stint with the United States Air Force.

In 1996, Colin was appointed as operations officer at the Boksburg Emergency Services.

In 1999, Colin was involved in the first foreign disaster operation by a South African Urban Search and Rescue team which responded to the earthquake in Turkey in 1999. Since then he has led the South African Search and Rescue teams to disaster affected areas in India (2001), Algeria (2003), Iran (2003/4), Pakistan (2005), Haiti (2010) and Japan (2011). He also led a combined Gauteng emergency services team to the flood ravaged areas in the Limpopo Province in 2000.

In 2005, Colin was appointed to the position of Director: Disaster Management and Fire/Rescue Services in the Gauteng Provincial Government. He was instrumental in establishing the Gauteng Provincial Disaster Management Centre. In 2008 Colin was appointed to the position of Chief Director and he played a leading role in the management of the first declared disaster in the Gauteng province following the attacks on foreign nationals in May 2008. In 2010 Colin was appointed to the position of Chief Director: Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Services in the Western Cape Province.

Colin has also served on numerous international disaster management advisory and regulatory bodies, including the United Nations International Search and Rescue Advisory Forum; vice chair of the World Council for Rescue Organizations; South African Canine Search and Rescue Association; and chairperson of the South African National Vehicle Extrication Committee.

He was also a member of the national 2010 FIFA World Cup Disaster Management Task Team as well as the national Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radiological Response Task Team.

Colin was nominated for the prestigious Debris fleet management Emergency Hero of the Year award on three occasions and was also recognized by Rotary International who awarded him with the Paul Harris fellowship for services above self in 2003.

# Sharing Events and Experiences:

## Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum:

This is an intergovernmental structure where all relevant provincial, metro municipalities, district municipalities and relevant SOEs (State Owned Enterprises) and NGOs involved in disaster related activities come together once per quarter at Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC). There are also sub-committees or work groups who focus on specific matters pertaining to a particular sector, e.g. Social Relief; Social Conflict; Agriculture; Environment; etc. It is also advisable that similar type of forums exists on a metro and district municipal level as indicated in the Disaster Management Act, No. 57 of 2002.

## Disaster Risk Assessments:

The Western Cape Province has a full complement of risk assessments at a District and Metro level. The review and update of risk assessments should be done annually to maintain a credible risk profile. Due to the importance of having a current and accurate risk profile, the PDMC has reviewed all the district and metro level risk assessments in the province as per the criteria listed in the Provincial Disaster Management Framework during the 2011/12 financial year. As part of the process the PDMC in collaboration with disaster management stakeholders have developed a best practice risk assessment methodology that will be implemented in the province during the 2012/13 financial year. The West Coast and Eden District Municipalities have been identified as the areas that will pilot the new standardized methodology. These two projects will be done in collaboration with the aforementioned Districts so that a transfer of skills and capacity building can take place.

## Disaster Management Centres:

The PDMC is fully functional and hosts various workshops and special events throughout the year. Metro EMS (Emergency Medical Services) also have a dedicated 24/7 Call Centre operating from the PDMC. A new Video Wall has been installed with high-tech hard- and software.

(See photo below)

The metro as well as district municipalities each have a Disaster Management Centre, except Cape Winelands. Discussions and plans are underway to establish such a Centre within the boundaries of Cape Winelands within 2012.



## Notice Board:



Next Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum meeting will take place on 16 May 2012 at PDMC



Annual Report = we are in the process of completing the 2011/12 annual report to be sent to National and District Municipalities.



We established an Impact Dashboard. PDMC agreed with all stakeholders attending the Provincial Disaster Management Advisory Forum that it will administer an Impact Dashboard where crucial projects and matters referred to us on a standard application form, will be fast-tracked and supported in cases where certain bottlenecks or administrative hindrances retard the resolving and un-knotting of such matters.



Fire Fighters Day: Fire fighters dedicate their lives to the protection of life and property and everyday this dedication risks the ultimate sacrifice of a fire-fighter's life.

International Fire fighters' Day (IFFD) is a time where the world's community can recognise and honour the sacrifices that fire fighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible. It is also a day in which current and past fire fighters can be thanked for their contributions.

International Fire fighters' Day is observed each year on 4th May. On this date you are invited to remember the past fire fighters who have died while serving our community or dedicated their lives to protecting the safety of us all. At the same time, we can show our support and appreciation to the fire fighters who continue to protect us so well throughout the year.

THIS YEAR; In partnership with the Western Cape Chief Fire Officers Committee and PGWC Department for Local Government Directorate for Fire Brigade Services; Worcester will be the main venue for the commemoration of International Fire fighters Day.

Commencing from 3 May, there will be a static display in the centre court of the Mountain Mill Mall with the main event consisting of live drills and equipment displays occurring on Saturday, 5 May 2012.