

DISASTER MANAGEMENT CHAPTER

RISK & VALNERABILITY

Floods

Laingsburg is known for the flood which took 108 lives that occurred on the 25 January 1981. A third of the town was swept away after four days of continuous raining. After the flood the town was restored and today there is no sign of Day the Buffelo. Although Laingsburg seldom get rain, when it rains a flood is always the biggest fear of the community, with good reason. Since then the area had a few floods but with no live lost.

Draughts

Due to the fact that Laingsburg seldom get rain, drought is part of the town itself. The Agricultural community face this every day of their lives. Agriculture is the biggest economic sector of the municipal area, and suffers yearly. It impacts on the whole economy. Farmers suffer great lost with sheep farming the producing of fruit and vegetables in the area. Subsidies were given to farmers in the past, but nowadays it is a shortage they can't fill. Local farmers are left unemployed and although the get help from the state it only once off.

Fires

Due to the fact that the area gets maximum temperatures of plus minus 41 degrees max, fires occur in fields, mountains and farms. Fires occur in the town and settlements like Matjiesfontein led to lost of Lives and the threat still remains. Fires in backyard dwellings and informal housing in Laingsburg and Matjiesfontein is high risk for the area. Fire Incidents on the N1 national road occurs a lot when vehicles e.g. Trucks, cars and taxi burst out in flames.

Hazardous Incidents

Vehicles as specially trucks is a concern, when they travel through our area, a incident occurred once when a truck with paint burst into flames I the middle of the town close to three petrol garages and our Fire Fighting does not a the training to deal with such a incident which can occur.

Pollution

Air, Water and Land pollution is likely to occur I our area. Plans must be put in place to put methods in place to prevent it.

Major Accidents

Laingsburg is build on the N1 national and statistics show that the Road between Laingsburg and Beaufort West is no just called "Pad van die Dood" for nothing. South Africans dies on these road daily, major accidents occur occasionally when Taxi's, Buses which takes lives. Kudu's in the area cause major accidents and live lost.

RISK REDUCTION PLANS

Floods

The municipality of Laingsburg together with district Municipality, farmers, Department of Water Affairs and Department of Agriculture try to keep the Rivers clean. The rivers the town area is being geskraap to prevent the river when it comes down to take it own direction, but to give it a “loop” for the safety of the community. Farmers down stream are being mobilized to inform the Flood working group which was established to assist during a flood and the Coordinator will inform the community to vacate if necessary. Members in community have volunteered to help if a flood occurred again.

Draughts

The municipality of Laingsburg is very much dependent of the agricultural sector for employment and for produce. Although nothing can be done to prevent it, they can assist the farmers with discounts on the Rates and taxes and attending prayer sessions. The municipality is also always ready to help when a fire occur.

Fires

The municipality has two groups of municipal workers who are ready 24 hours a day in case of a emergency. Training is being given to them to capacitate them with necessary skills to assist with any type of fire whenever it may occur, as well as when a hazmet incident may occur to regulate and to assist until help turns up. Emergency Medical Training is currently provided in partnership with Metro Beaufort West to assist on accident scenes.

Hazardous Incidents

Laingsburg Municipality in partnership with provincial traffic assist to get them safely out of our area by assisting them through the area when we are informed about vehicles driving though our area. Letters are distributed to companies to inform us about any vehicles passing through our town. The Fire Fighting team where trained for whenever such a incident may occur.

Pollution

A waste management plan is being drown up to prevent pollution. Inspection in partnership with District Municipality is being done make sure what it detected soonest.

Major Accidents

The municipality in partnership with the District Municipality, Provincial Traffic, South African Police Services and the Emergency Medical Services are working together to safe lives within the “Golden Hour”. Level Three Medical Courses are being run by Emergency Medical Services to capacitate all codes to assist during an emergency. The Kanniedood marathon as an Awareness Program is being done yearly to create awareness as the Arrive Alive Campaign.

PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE & RECOVERY

Floods

The Flood Working group has a prepared, response and recovery plan in order to cope with a flood when it occurs. The group together with “HOPE” Working Group and all other working group and members who volunteered will work together to make sure that the community of the effected area are vacated in time and in a safe place. The municipality along with the District Municipality will coordinate the recovery process.

Draughts

The municipality in partnership with the department of Agriculture and social development will work together to assist farmers in the area. Luzerne is being plant in the community garden to assist with food for animals. The municipality will work together wit farmers and the Department of Water Affairs to run a project, working for water to eliminate alien plants in the area. A “Turksvy” project is also planned to assist with food during drought.

Fires

The municipality in partnership with the district municipality is training staff continuously to make sure they can deliver an effective service to the community, travelers on the N1 and the farming community. The equipment is being checked and maintained to make sure it’s in an excellent condition, even though our Fire Fighting Truck is using our entire budget. The municipality is trying to budget to give the workers whose volunteering a performance bonus. Fire awareness programs in the community is initiated to eliminate fires in backyard dwellers and in informal houses.

Hazardous Incidents

The municipality in partnership with the district is providing training to help the Fire Fighting teams to assist in case of such an emergency. Municipal and provincial traffic work partnership to get Hazardous carriers as soon as possible out of our area by way of vergeseling.

Pollution

A waste management plan is being drown up to prevent pollution. Inspection in partnership with District Municipality is being done make sure what it detected soonest. A recycling project is up and running and a second phase is being planned. Awareness programs are going to be done shortly to inform the community on what their role is in case of preventative maintenance. A green project is being planned in the new residential area and existing residential areas. Keeping the town clean projects is being run in partnership with schools.

Major Accidents

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Kanniedood marathon as an Awareness Program is being done yearly to create awareness as the Arrive Alive Campaign. Road Blocks are being planned to create more awareness. Strict policing and road traffic is being initiated with more visibility and methods to delete speeding on our roads.