



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

29 September 2023

MOP-UP OPERATIONS IN THE AFTERMATH OF LAST WEEKEND'S STORM

ROADS:

- Most of the roads around the municipal area have been cleaned up and re-opened:
- Teams from BVM and Cape Winelands District Municipality worked through the night on Tuesday to have the N1 at De Doorns opened and are still busy with mop-up operations on other roads. Currently there is a stop/go system in place on the N1 between the Sandhills and Orchard intersections.
- The bridge on the Sandhills road has a crack and is too dangerous to use. Engineers have assessed the situation and advised the closure of the road. Although the damage is not too severe, that part of the road will have to be repaired and should be able to happen within two weeks if all goes well.

RESCUE / ASSISTANCE:

- In Aan de Doorns: 22 families were affected but are not totally cut-off – food parcels received from CWDM are being distributed today.
- At Doringrivier/Moddergat between Worcester and Villiersdorp, 118 families are stuck between two rivers. No motor vehicle access is currently possible. 25 Food parcels have already been delivered and more will be distributed today (Friday, 29 September). Drinking water is still desperately needed. Blankets and mattresses will be distributed to families whose houses washed away. Between BVM and farmers, every effort will be made to get relief to the communities. If it proves too dangerous, Gift of the Givers has a helicopter on standby.
- De Doorns: Organised Agriculture is assisting to identify people in need.
- In Touwsrivier there are 11 families who were severely affected by the storm, and they will also receive relief packages.
- We received a FALSE message that a train was stuck somewhere close to Touwsrivier due to railway being washed away and that a helicopter was contracted by Transnet to evacuate passengers. The public is once again reminded NOT to distribute/forward false news as this causes valuable resources to be wasted. False information can even lead to loss of life if rescue efforts are directed towards false emergencies and a real emergency gets attended to too late.

DONATIONS / FOOD / OTHER:

- Sasko already distributed almost 2000 loaves of bread to destitute areas and is planning to donate even more within the next few days.
- The community also donated necessities which were immediately distributed.
- Gift of the Givers are delivering 770 deliver food parcels today (Friday).
- More donations are however still needed and can be delivered to the Worcester Fire Station.
- BVM's budget for Disaster Management will assist to supplement donations already received and distributed.

We request the public to contact us should there be any other areas in need. Kindly note the following important service numbers:

- Reporting service issues/interruptions and general matters: **Service Support Centre (0860 12 12 12)**
- Emergency calls during high emergency/life-threatening situations: **Emergency Control Centre (023 342 2430 or 112)**
- The public is also requested to please be patient when calling the Service Support Centre (Call Centre). Although it might seem as if the operators are not answering your call, the reality is that we currently do not have operational call centre software. BVM is however, busy investigating the best way to implement such software and alternative ways which the public can use to communicate certain issues to us. One such way, is already in use: **BVM Digital** (our citizen engagement app - which can be downloaded from our website or any app store).



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Members of the public are referred to the following useful tips during severe storms:

- Move to higher ground if near a flooded area.
- Avoid crossing flooded roads and pathways.
- Ensure that mobile/electronic devices are sufficiently charged.
- Save the emergency numbers on mobile devices.
- Keep personal documents, credit cards, ID, passport etc. in a waterproof bag.
- Pack dry clothing to keep warm.
- Have an emergency whistle to signal help.
- Pack non-perishable foods, candles, water, and matches
- Have a torch and batteries available.
- Visit the link for more useful tips: <https://hsseworld.com/photo-of-the-day-flood-safety-tips/>

We encourage all members of society to remain vigilant and safe. We further implore for patience toward our teams serving during this period and encourage the collaboration of those able to do so. Lastly, we convey our heartfelt gratitude to all members of staff assuming the call of duty during this time.

END

*PLEASE NOTE THAT – ON REQUEST - OUR PRESS RELEASES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE IN ISIXHOSA AND
AFRIKAANS*

Media Queries

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