

# CENTRAL KAROO

## DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



### SECTION: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

## STOP LITTERING & THE ILLEGAL DUMPING OF WASTE



The Section aims to create an environment supportive of good health and minimize those factors detrimental to our health in the Central Karoo district

The Section is focused on the needs and expectations of our communities in the Central Karoo. We seek a good relationship between the municipality and its inhabitants, with a collective responsibility for the environment to ensure that all communities will live in an environment that is beneficial to their health

## OUR FUNCTION

The National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) defines Municipal Health Services as Environmental Health. In terms of Section 1 of the Act Municipal Health Services are defined as:

- Water Quality Monitoring;
- **Waste Management and Monitoring;**
- Food Control;
- Environmental Pollution Control;
- Health Surveillance of Premises;
- Communicable Diseases Control;
- Vector Control;
- Chemical Safety; and
- Management of Human Remains

The Air Quality Management & Integrated Waste Management functions are also performed by the Section Municipal Health.

EHP's act as public arbiters of EH standards, maintaining close contact with the communities they serve. We act as advisers, educators, consultants, managers and enforcement officers (enforcing health policies), ensuring people are able to live, work and play in safe and healthy environments.

## STAFF & AREA OF SERVICE DELIVERY

EHP's are employed at our Head Office in Beaufort West as well as our Prince Albert & Laingsburg Offices.

Services are rendered in ten (10) communities in the Central Karoo Region, namely Murraysburg, Beaufort West, Nelspoort, Merweville, Prince Albert, Leeu-Gamka, Klaarstroom, Prince Albert Road, Laingsburg & Matjiesfontein, as well as in the rural areas of the Beaufort West, Prince Albert & Laingsburg Districts.

## WHAT IS LITTER?

Litter consists of waste products that have been disposed of improperly, without consent, at an undesirable location.

## HOW DOES LITTERING AFFECT US?

Litter is an important environmental issue... Carelessly discarded garbage affects every member of society: it causes harm to people and animals, damages our waterways, cost us money and suggests that we do not care for our environment. Fortunately, we can all do something to help prevent and reduce litter.

## STOP POLLUTING OUR ENVIRONMENT!

Uncontrolled dumping of waste is an environmental, aesthetic and social problem, diminishing the quality of life in the Central Karoo district.

Local beliefs that 'litter creates jobs' and 'it's my property I'll do as I please' compound the problem of dirty streets and piles of rubble and rubbish dumped in back yards etc. These actions have negative consequences reaching much further than just the location of the dumping itself.

Whether intentional or accidental, litter begins with the individual.

People still think that it is the municipality's responsibility to clean up after them; that what they are doing will have no negative knock-on effect on the environment (either physical or social)

A further community attitude is the apparent belief that one's vote is one's currency; once you have voted for a particular political party, that party is obliged to provide everything you need or want, including to pick up rubbish that has been deliberately dropped.

Local by-laws governing illegal dumping must be updated and fines must reflect the actual costs to enforce and clean up the mess in our communities; more importantly,

sanctions must be uniformly enforced and the public must be aware that dumping illegally carries a real risk of fines and/or prison time or at the very least community service and embarrassment in their community.

There is a growing problem of business and land owners dumping uncontrolled rubble and refuse.

While the intention may typically be to extend the usable platform, more often, apart from the health nuisance and the obvious visual scar on the landscape, these un-engineered embankments are sliding down the slope and damaging municipal line services such as sewer and storm water pipes on the lower slope, or falling into the lower neighbour's property and causing social tension.

Today, depending on the nature of the dumped materials, the cost to clean up illegally dumped waste to modern, more stringent standards can be up to 30 times more expensive than correct disposal.

### **EASY TIPS FOR PREVENTING AND ERADICATING LITTER**

1. Keep a litter bag in your car and hang on to litter until you find a garbage receptacle.
2. Report litterbugs.
3. Make sure your trash cans have tight-fitting lid
4. Share with others the proper way to dispose of trash
5. Put papers in a paper bag before placing them in your recycling bin
6. Encourage your neighbors, clubs, co-workers or families to Adopt-A-Road or join you in an area cleanup. "Adopting" an area can significantly reduce future litter because people litter less in maintained areas
7. Look for ways to beautify your neighborhood and community, including landscaping and repairing fences.

Attractive, maintained neighborhoods are littered less and research shows that they are usually safer, too

8. In your workplace, provide plenty of containers for garbage and recyclables
9. Ask business owners to keep loading docks clean and check dumpsters every day to make sure they are securely closed

Every day, we can all do something to prevent litter and make our community safer, cleaner and more livable.

### **IT MUST BECOME COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT DUMPING AND LITTERING ARE NOT ONLY UNSOCIABLE, UNHYGIENIC AND UNACCEPTABLE, THEY ARE ILLEGAL AND CARRY CONSEQUENCES.**

### **REPORTING HEALTH NUISANCES**

**The owner, occupier or user of land or premises must –**

- Ensure that a Health nuisance does not exist or occur on his or her land or premises;
- Within 24 hours of becoming aware of the existence of a health nuisance on the land or premises, eliminate the health nuisance, or if he or she is unable to eliminate the health nuisance;
- Take steps to the satisfaction of the municipality to reduce the risk to municipal health; and
- Report the existence of the health nuisance to the municipality.



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