

# CENTRAL KAROO

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

## SECTION MUNICIPAL HEALTH

### INFORMATION & AWARENESS DOCUMENT



2022/23

Compiled by:  
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Manager: MHS

September 2022

## *Dear Reader*

This Information / Awareness document to municipalities, institutions and the general public of the Central Karoo District aims to create an awareness regarding certain municipal health related topics and to promote the objectives of the Section in the establishment of a safe and healthy environment.

Environmental health is concerned with relations between the environment and human health and their management and remains a considerable public health challenge

We are living at a time where the human impact on the environment and the resulting impact of the environment on human health are a rapidly growing concern.

We have a moral obligation to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. Environmental degradation is detrimental and is jeopardising the long-term health and security of animals, plants and humans.

It is critical to demonstrate to policymakers and the public that investments in municipal / environmental health services add value to society. The loss of health due to environmental degradation is substantial and calls for interventions. Environmental policy interventions can in turn save money in health care costs.

Littering and the illegal dumping of waste remains a big challenge for all our municipalities.

Let's clean up where we stay, let's ask our friends to keep their surroundings clean, let's understand that, despite certain obstacles, our local authorities need your support in the task assigned to them under difficult circumstances. Report your complaints to the relevant authorities, do not complain on social media until you have communicated your problem or complaint to the relevant authority. Make suggestions to authorities in solving certain problems...

Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP's) are always ready to give advice to individuals, community groups and businesses. Health promotion and health education are used as vital tools to promote environmental health issues and bring about improvements, by changing attitudes and behavior.

Working together and sharing information is also key to establish a Central Karoo District where people can live, work and play in an environment that is not harmful to their health.

To all the hard working and dedicated employees of our municipalities... I wish you all success in the upcoming challenges this financial year.... That we gain more experience, more knowledge and more growth. Continue to have faith in yourself and keep working hard in order to take our municipalities to new heights.

I feel honored to have a great, self-motivated team to work with. EHP's who work hard and with great enthusiasm to promote a safe and healthy environment.

I trust that this information will be of value to you. If you would like more information on certain topics, you are welcome to contact me or any of our environmental health practitioners at the Central Karoo District Municipality.

*Gerrit van Zyl*

*Manager: Municipal Health*

## ABOUT THE SECTION...

The Central Karoo District Municipality is sanctioned by legislation to provide Municipal Health Services within its area of jurisdiction.

Currently the Municipality is implementing the full service as defined by the Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) throughout the Central Karoo District.

Municipal / Environmental Health is a fundamental public health approach affecting the whole population and services provided by Environmental Health Practitioners (EHP's) are essential elements in building a healthy population.

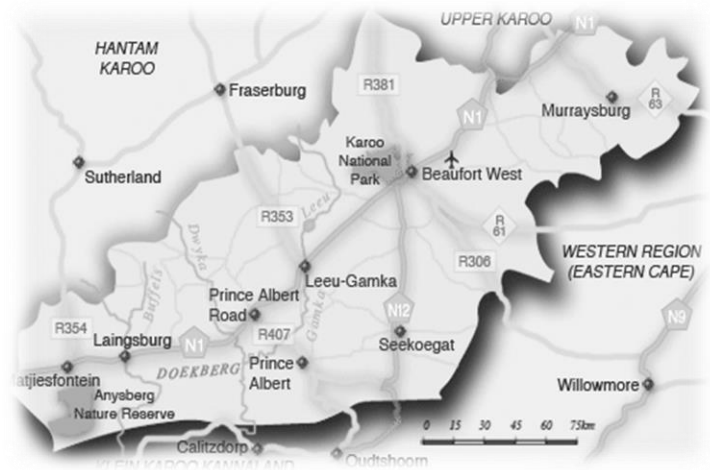
The Section aims to create an environment supportive of good health and minimize those factors detrimental to our health in the Central Karoo district

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

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:

1. Water Quality Monitoring;
2. Waste Management and Monitoring;
3. Food Control;
4. Environmental Pollution Control;
5. Health Surveillance of Premises;
6. Communicable Diseases Control;
7. Vector Control;
8. Chemical Safety; and
9. Management of Human Remains

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



## STAFF & AREA OF SERVICE DELIVERY

Our staff component consists of one (1) Manager; six (6) operational EHP's; one (1) Air Quality / Waste Officer as well as one (1) Office Assistant.

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, 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.

**SPEED**  
**ENTHUSIASM**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**  
**VERSATILITY**  
**I CARE**  
**COMMUNICATION**  
**EXTRA MILE**



SERVICE  
QUALITY  
SATISFACTION  
LOYALTY  
SUPPORT  
COMMUNICATION  
FEEDBACK  
TRUST



# Batho Pele

Putting People First



We Belong



We Care









We Serve





# MEET OUR TEAM...

CENTRAL KAROO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY SECTION: MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES					
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**The strength of the team  
is each individual member.  
The strength of each member  
is the team.**

**Phil Jackson**



**"If you don't know  
where you're going,  
how do you expect  
to get there?"**

**~ Basil S. Walsh**

**The Section has four (4) overarching strategic goals in order to strengthen our services.**

Our strategic goals are as follow:

#### **Build Capacity**

To establish a well capacitated / equipped Section in terms of staff, tools of trade, finances and professional development.

#### **Foster Collaboration with Role Players**

The establishment of a good foundation for cooperation between role players and a collaborative culture with the focus on common goals in terms of the environment and public health.

#### **Empower Communities Through Training & Education**

Bring changed and improved health & hygiene habits, serving as a barrier to diseases as well as empowered communities that become advocates for public health.

#### **Execute / Enhance Specific Programs / Services**

i.e., water quality monitoring, waste management & monitoring, environmental pollution control, food control, health surveillance of premises, communicable diseases control, chemical safety, vector control and the management of human remains.



**Our Section is focused on the needs & expectations of our communities.**

**We strive to ensure that the Batho Pele Principles are being implemented & that the public is being addressed politely & with a sense of responsibility**

# 2021/22 IN NUMBERS...

- **57 water samples** for bacteriological analysis were taken during the reporting period. **40 (70%)** of the samples did comply to the SANS 241 Standards for Water Quality and **Bi-annual Evaluation Reports** on the status of water quality were sent to all WSA's in the district during December 2021 and June 2022.
- **12 sewerage samples** for bacteriological analysis were taken during the reporting period. **9 (75%)** of the samples did comply to the set standards.
- **Annual Reports** on the current status of all solid waste sites, illegal dumping of waste, littering, recycling initiatives, proposed actions etc. were sent to all local municipalities in the district during June 2022.
- **1 262 inspections** were conducted at **food premises** during the reporting period and **125 Certificates of Acceptability (CoA's)** issued to new food premises complying to the Regulations with regards to the General Hygiene requirements for Food Premises and the Transport of Food (R 638 of 2018).
- **39 food samples** were taken for bacteriological and chemical analysis during the reporting period. **25 (64%)** of the samples did comply with the standards as set in the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act. (Act. 54 of 1972). **10 milk samples** were also taken for bacteriological analysis.
- **14 food products** were evaluated in order to monitor compliance to the Labelling Regulations.
- No cases of food poisoning were reported and investigated during the reporting period.
- **291 inspections** were conducted at **public premises** during the reporting period and **79 Health Certificates issued** in terms of the relevant Norms & Standards.
- **10 inspections** were conducted at **informal settlements** and **Bi-annual evaluation reports** on the current status of informal settlements were sent to local municipalities in the district during December 2021 and June 2022.
- **4 air quality related complaints** were received and investigated during and **Quarterly Reports** compiled regarding the various aspects of pollution control and sent to the Directorate Pollution Control of the Department Environmental Affairs.
- **No notifiable medical conditions**, other than Covid-19 cases, were reported.
- **1 incident of pesticide poisoning** were reported and investigated.
- **1 657 inspections for vector infestations** were conducted at food and other public premises
- **30 inspections** were conducted at **funeral parlours/mortuaries** and **5 Certificates of Competence (CoC's)** were issued to a Funeral Parlours.
- **2 applications for exhumations** were received and monitored.

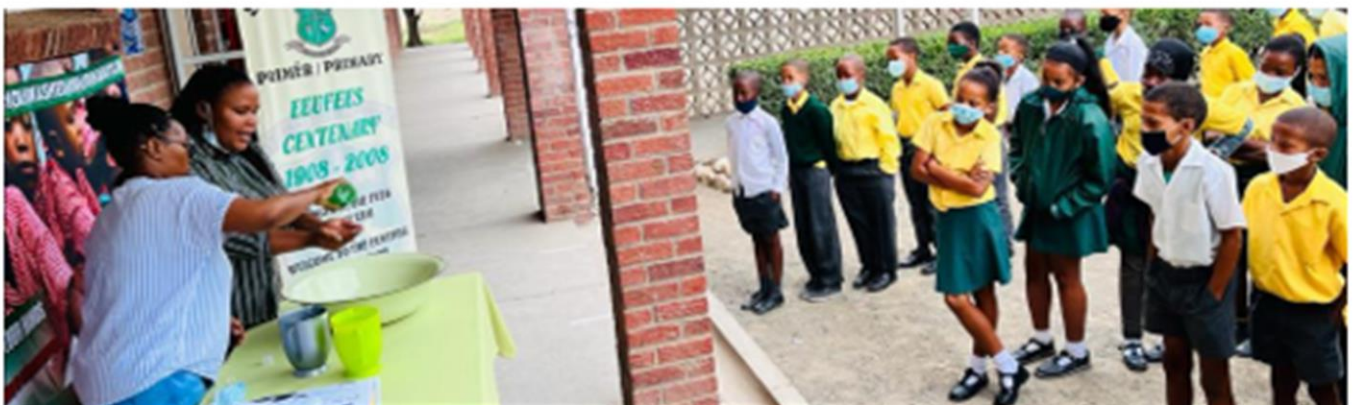
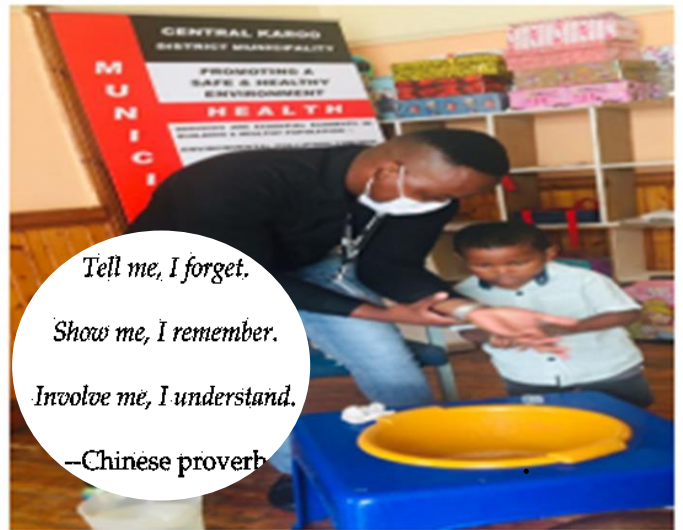


- **2 municipal health related articles** were published in the local newspaper “The Courier”.
- **109 municipal health / Covid related messages** were posted on the Facebook Page of the local newspaper “The Courier” as well as on other Facebook pages in the district.
- **9 health and hygiene training and education activities** were conducted.
- **1 Municipal Health Services Information Document** was compiled and sent to all the local municipalities in the district.
- **9 complaints** were received during the reporting period. All Environmental health related public complaints were investigated.
- **2 Project Proposal** were drafted and sent to the National Department Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment as well as the National Department Human Settlements in order to obtain funding.
- **12 Sinjani Reports** were submitted to the WC Department of Health.
- **Other Inspection Reports / Notices issued**
  - Water Quality Management – **23.**
  - Waste management – **41.**
  - Food Control – **919.**
  - Health Surveillance of Premises – **104.**
  - Environmental Pollution Control – **3.**
  - Communicable Diseases Control – **0.**
  - Chemical Safety – **1.**
  - Vector Control – **124.**
  - Management of Human Remains – **10.**
- The Performance on the Section’s SDBIP operational & strategic KPI’s are updated on a monthly basis on the Ignite System.
- Accredited training Programmes were made available to staff to ensure competency on aspects as outlined in their scope of profession. AOSIS was the service provider for eCPD training to EHP’s



***The value of Municipal Health Services is that it can reduce health care costs and improve productivity, reducing the significant economic burden of disease in addition to improving the length and quality of people's lives.***

***Globally, 23% of all deaths & 26% of deaths among children under age 5 are due to preventable environmental factors.***





# DID YOU KNOW...

## POWERS OF AN EHP

EHP's can enforce legislation by written warnings, formal notices issued to premises owners, employers and organisations.

The type of notice depends on the legislation being enforced, but will generally aim to seek improvements to comply with the law, or prohibit something dangerous to health, safety or the environment.

These powers can vary with the legislation but will usually include the right to:

- enter a premises at any reasonable time;
- bring a member of the police or other expert;
- bring equipment, materials and use them;
- examine, inspect, investigate and dismantle;
- direct that things or places are left undisturbed;
- require anyone to give facilities/assistance/provide advice;
- take measurements, photographs, recordings, etc.;
- take samples;
- interview people;
- inspect and take copies of documents, entries in books;
- issue enforcement notices;
- initiate prosecution; and
- carry out any other power to do their job.



**When an EHP performs an inspection service, he or she must:**

- **Be in possession of a certificate of appointment; and**
- **Show that certificate to any person who is affected by the action of the EHP.**







## Do I have to pay for an EHP inspection?

You only have to pay for a Certificate of Acceptability or a health Certificate, depending on the type of business that you have.

## Can I appeal against a decision?

If you feel that your inspection is unfair you can appeal against the decision and request a revisit.

**Residential, business and public premises are monitored in order to identify, assess, control and manage health hazards and risks emanating from the use of such premises.**

This function also includes scrutinizing of building plans and providing health comment on environmental impact assessment of proposed new developments in order to ensure that all health aspects are considered.

**"There's an inspector here from the Board of Health who would like to see the chicken soup."**

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**The COVID-19 pandemic and related public health measures have drawn our attention to how critically important our homes, neighborhoods and communities are to our health, wellbeing, and overall quality of life.**

**Our environments shape where we live, work, play and how we interact with one another - and our environments.**

The Department of Employment and Labour has listed SARS CoV2 (Covid-19) as a group 3 hazardous biological agent (HBA) under South Africa's Hazardous Biological Agents regulations, which has important implications for employers and businesses in South Africa.

The regulations were published by the department on 16 March 2022 in terms of section 43 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and categorize HBAs into four risk groups according to their hazard and categories of contaminant.

They also require employers to control the exposure to HBAs in the workplace via various reasonably practicable measures.

Covid-19 is recognised as a Group 3 HBA that may cause severe human disease, which presents a serious hazard to exposed persons and which may present a risk of spreading to the community, but for which effective prophylaxis and treatment is available.

In categorising Covid-19, the regulations specify that a registered vaccine is available for use in South Africa and can, in terms of regulation 10(4)(g), be made available to control exposure to the HBA in the workplace, where reasonably practicable.

This National State of Disaster were terminated by Government Notice No 1988 of 4 April 2022.

The Minister of Employment and Labour in Government Gazette No. 46043, Government Notice No 1876 of 15 February 2022 promulgated a "Code of Practice: Managing Exposure to SARS-COV-2 in the Workplace, 2022.

This Code came in operation upon the ending of the National State of Disaster and requires the employer to do the following:

The employer must-

- 1) undertake a risk assessment to give effect to its obligations under the OHSA and the HBA Regulations;
- 2) on the basis of the risk assessment develop or amend its existing plan to include:
  - measures to be implemented in respect of the vaccination of its employees
  - consult on the risk assessment and plan with representative trade unions as contemplated by section 14(1) of the LRA as well as health and safety committees established in terms of section 19 of the OHSA

## **WATER QUALITY & MONITORING**



Water Service Authorities work hard to ensure that the water you receive is of the highest standard.

However, if you are concerned about the water we supply to your home, please contact your municipality and the Section Municipal Health Services of the Central Karoo District Municipality so we can investigate the problem.

If appropriate, we will take samples for analysis and let you know as soon as possible, depending on the nature of the test carried out.

Where we find a problem that might affect your health, we will inform your local municipality.

Your local municipality, with the support of our Section, will advise everyone in the affected area what to do.

This may mean boiling water before use, or in exceptional cases, not using it until further tests were carried out. This advice will come to you through notices posted to you, local media news bulletins, personal visits or by phone – whichever is the quickest and most effective way to get the message to you.



## **Hygiene And Quality**

### **Tap hygiene**

It is important that you regularly clean taps that are, or may be, used for drinking water.

Bacteria and other microorganisms occur naturally and are found within our homes. Under certain conditions these can grow both on the outside of the tap and inside the lip of the spout.

They are not visible to the naked eye, but the tap can become contaminated from food or items washed in the sink or basin.

### **Taste or smells**

Customers occasionally report that their tap water has an unusual taste or smell.

There could be several causes of this and the most common are described below.

If you get a sudden or unusual taste or smell to your drinking water, please contact your local municipality so that they can investigate the problem.

### **Chlorine taste**

A chlorine-like smell or taste is often described as being similar to a swimming pool or bleach.

Chlorine is added continuously during water treatment as a disinfectant to kill bacteria and other microorganisms.

A small amount of chlorine remains in your tap water. This is to ensure that the quality of the drinking water is maintained through the pipe network.

Some people are more sensitive than others to the smell or taste of chlorine and may become aware of occasional changes in chlorine levels in their tap water. This could be because the municipality has been working on the water network.

### **Top tip**

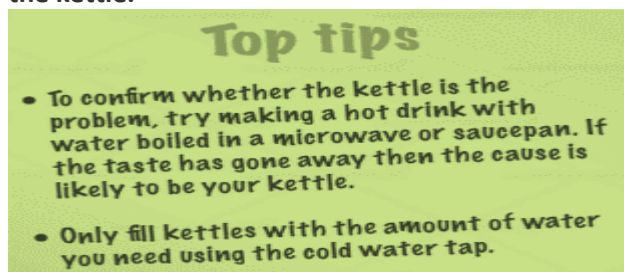
If you find the taste of chlorine unpleasant, a good solution is to put a jug of tap water in the fridge. This will naturally reduce any chlorine smell or taste. Cover the jug and use within 24 hours to prevent microorganism growth.



### Unusual tastes in hot drinks

If you notice unusual medicinal or plastic tastes only in hot drinks this can often be due to the seal within the kettle.

This is particularly noticeable in new kettles. Tastes can also be caused by repeatedly boiling water in the kettle.

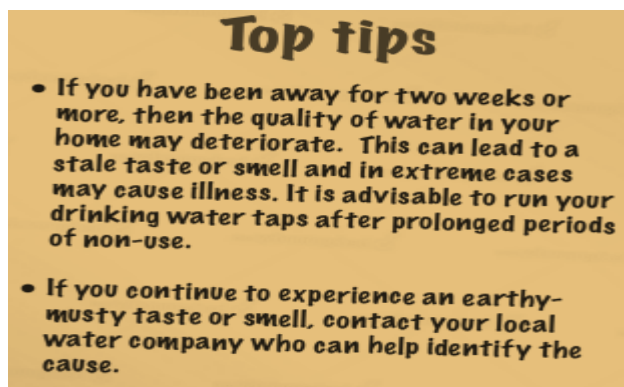


### Earthy-musty or stale taste or smell

Untreated water may naturally contain microscopic plants (algae) or other organic matter.

Drinking water treatment processes remove most of these but traces of the harmless materials can remain and give an earthy-musty smell or stale taste to your water.

These tastes or smells may also be caused by poor plumbing design allowing water to remain in your pipes for longer than necessary.



### Petrol / diesel / solvent taste or smell

This type of taste or smell can be associated with spills of chemicals or fuels (such as heating oils, petrol or diesel) on the ground near any water pipes.

If you become aware of a spill, or notice a petrol-like taste or smell to your water, contact your local municipality immediately.

## Appearance

Your water can, on rare occasion, appear discoloured.

### Cloudy (or milky) water

You may find that your drinking water has a cloudy or white appearance.

The most common cause of this is tiny air bubbles.

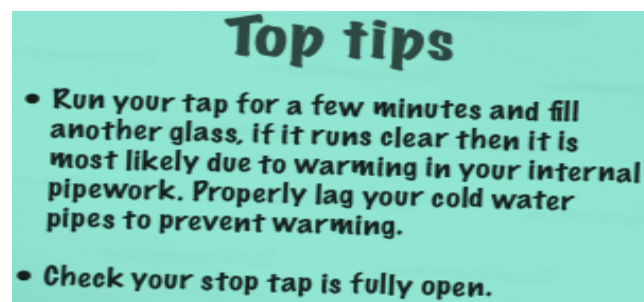
You can confirm this by running a glass of water and standing it for a few moments. If the water clears from the bottom upwards then the cause is trapped air.

Air in drinking water is completely harmless. It can be caused by internal plumbing, such as faulty taps or by water being warmed.

Cloudy water due to air can also be caused by a burst water main or when the municipality has been carrying out maintenance work on pipes.

If your water contains air for the first time, has been cloudy for more than a day or your neighbours are also affected, you can contact your local municipality.

If the water clears from the top down then this may be caused by chalky deposits.



**LOVE IT**  
DON'T TRASH IT

**Love  
Where  
You  
Live**

**IF YOU  
CAN'T  
CLEAN  
YOUR  
SURROUNDING  
THEN DON'T  
MAKE  
IT DIRTY.**

Stopping  
Pollution  
Is The  
Best  
Solution.

**RESPECT YOURSELF**

**RESPECT OTHERS**

**RESPECT YOUR ENVIRONMENT**

**PLEASE!**

**PUT YOUR LITTER IN THE BIN!**

**BE COOL. DON'T LITTER!**



**HELP KEEP THE  
CENTRAL KAROO  
BEAUTIFUL**

**Thank You...**

**...for not  
littering**



# DID YOU KNOW...



Many things that are thrown in the rubbish can contain harmful chemicals that damage the environment. Things like some household batteries, car oil, or old paint all need to be disposed of safely.

Hazardous waste, including electrical items like office computers and fridges, should not be put into the normal rubbish collection.

Some household batteries contain chemicals like lead, mercury or cadmium. If batteries are thrown into your normal rubbish bin, they are likely to end up in landfill.

Once buried, the batteries start to break off. and can leak some of these chemicals into the ground. This can cause soil, air and water pollution, which may be a health risk for humans.

Municipalities must ensure that general waste disposal sites receive only the general waste for which they are designed and that all hazardous waste is disposed of only on hazardous waste disposal sites.

Control of waste accepted into a Landfill requires the use of protocols to routinely screen waste inflow and / or criteria to assess the admissibility of waste for handling and disposal. These criteria are aimed at determining whether particular waste should be accepted or rejected. All acceptable wastes are classified as permitted waste and those rejected are classified as prohibited waste in relation to the operating criteria for the facility.

Prohibited wastes can include specified waste categories such as tyres, sludge that have not been dewatered, recyclable materials or hazardous waste.

With the information age, e-waste will continue to grow exponentially, and rapidly become a major waste challenge. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment can contain over one thousand different substances, many of which are toxic and some that have a high market value when extracted.

In the event that medical wastes are intercepted at a general waste landfill site, the Responsible Person or the Permit Holder must immediately contact the Section Municipal Health in this regard.

Pesticides also involves a number of environmental and health concerns.

***“An employee’s job is to give his or her best work every day. A manager’s job is to give the employee a good reason to come back to work tomorrow.”***

**– Liz Ryan, CEO and founder of Human Workplace**



The major causes of **SEWER BLOCKAGES**, which result in spillages could be avoided if people stop treating their toilets and drains as trash bins and start disposing of items used daily properly rather than flushing them down the toilets.



## Get rid of your waste properly to avoid blocked toilets, drains, sinks and sewer system pipes



**Unwanted food belongs in the bin,** not down the sink, drain or toilet. Fruit and vegetable waste and egg shells can be used to make compost.



**Don't flush rags and newspapers.** These objects don't break down.



**Bin peels or make compost with them.** Peels don't decompose quickly, they get stuck in the pipes causing blockages.



**Don't flush nappies and sanitary products,** they absorb water and expand, which causes blockages.



**Wipe cooking fats, oil or grease off the pan,** and don't pour it down the drain or toilet.



**Wipes, earbuds, condoms and hair** are small but they clump together with other objects and cause blockages.



**Put a strainer in the sink to catch food** or other waste before it goes down the drain and creates blockages.



**Check that rainwater gutters** don't flow into the sewer system, as it overloads the pipes, causing sewer overflows.

## TIPS TO HELP YOU REDUCE FOOD WASTE

1. Learn how to store different types of food items properly so that they don't get wasted due to spoilage.
2. Buy limited amount of food, especially perishable items, per week so that you don't have to throw them away due to spoilage.
3. Buy only those fruits and vegetables which you are sure you will be using during the week. No need to fill your refrigerators with items you know you won't be using. Be practical when buying fruits and vegetables.
4. Cook the amount of food that you can finish in a day or two, so you don't have to throw it away after a few days just because you couldn't finish it on time.
5. Always give away the food items that you don't plan on cooking anytime soon or those cans or jars close to expiry to the needy, so they can be used before they become unfit for consumption.
6. If you have cooked extra amount of food accidentally, pack it up and give it to the homeless.
7. Plan your grocery ahead, make a list and only buy the things on your list.
8. Use that freezer of your and freeze, freeze, freeze any food item that is close to spoilage so that you can use them later on.
9. When you see a lot of things in your refrigerator are close to spoilage, make pasta with them. Most of the vegetables taste really good in pasta, so try new recipes.
10. And lastly, compost. Even after doing everything in your power, if you still have a tiny amount of food waste every day, then the best thing to do with it is to make compost which can be used for growing



***"If food waste were a country, it would be the third largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world, after China and the U.S." - Tristram Stewart, author, Waste: Uncovering the Global Food Scandal***

## **WASTE PICKERS CAN MAKE IMPORTANT ECON. & ENV. CONTRIBUTIONS**

People decide to work as waste pickers for a number of reasons.

The primary reason is that they are unable to find other work owing to our high unemployment rate.

Income generating options should therefore be provided to waste pickers in the transition to new recycling collection systems.

Waste pickers on landfills and in the streets work in very different conditions, have different relations to residents and the authorities, face different challenges.

Historically waste pickers were not allowed to work on landfills in South Africa. The National Environmental Management: Waste Act, 2008, creates the opportunity to change this because the Waste Act encourages and emphasises the consideration of other waste management options such as recycling, reduction, re-use and recovery of waste other than landfill disposal as long as it's done in an environmentally sound manner.

Section 51(1) of the Waste Act deals with contents of waste management licences. Specifically, it allows waste pickers to undertake their activities on existing landfill sites as long as the waste management licence specifies the conditions in terms of which salvaging of waste may be undertaken.

One of the main challenges confronting our municipalities is the lack of funding mechanisms dedicated to supporting waste management in general and waste picker integration in particular.

As a result, municipalities draw on other funds, such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to finance waste picker programmes. These funding mechanisms can create unnecessary restrictions on the kinds of activities that can be undertaken.



**There is little point in collecting recyclables if there is no market to sell them.**

**Municipalities in the Central Karoo District should make conditions more conducive for recycling.**

**Special initiatives will have to be created to ensure that our smaller towns and rural areas are not left behind and that recyclables are purchased from these areas.**



# PROTOCOL FOR THE ISUING OF CERTIFICATES BY THE SECTION

## Background:

Applicable legislation as well as the National Environmental Health Norms and Standards require the issuance of certain Certificates by the Section Municipal Health Services of the Central Karoo District Municipality.

The latter places an obligation on the Section to immediately evaluate an application and, if the set requirements are met, to issue an appropriate Certificate for such premises.

The issuance of a Certificate by the Section does not imply the approval of an applicant to operate a business on a premises without the Applicant having to comply with all other applicable requirements of a Category B-Municipality.

The responsibility rests with the Owner or Person in Charge to also obtain approval from the Category B-Municipality, within whose jurisdiction such premises are located.

However, an application and issuing of a Certificate may not be withheld until approval has been obtained by a Category B-Municipality or any other Department or Institution.

It should be noted that there is no legal obligation on the Section to inform Category B-Municipalities or any other Departments or Institutions in respect of an application for, or issuance of a Certificate to a premises.

The obligation on the Section to issue a Certificate unfortunately also creates a problem for Category B- Municipalities, as these municipalities also have certain statutory obligations w.r.t. the regulation of such premises.

## Purpose:

The purpose of this Protocol is to promote co-operation in matters of common interest, as well as the effective management, control, monitoring and evaluation of the application for and operation of certain formal and informal businesses within the Central Karoo District.

## Certificates issued by the Section Municipal Health:

- Certificate of Acceptability to Food Handling Premises in terms of the Regulations with regard to the General Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises, Food Transport and Relevant Matters, R638 of 22 June 2018;
- Health Certificates to Premises in terms of the Environmental Health National Norms and Standards, Nr. 39561 of 24 December 2015; and
- Certificate of Competence to Funeral Undertakers and Mortuaries in terms of Regulation with regard to the Management of Human Remains, R363 of 23 May 2013.

## Protocol:

- a) Upon receipt of an application for the issuance of a Certificate by the Owner or Person in Control of a relevant premises (hereinafter referred to as “the Applicant”), the Section issues the prescribed application form to the Applicant for completion.
- b) Upon completion of the application form, the Applicant must provide the completed form to the Environmental Health Practitioner (EHP), in whose jurisdiction such application is, or in his / her absence to the Administrative Clerk of the Section, either by hand, post or by e-mail.
- c) Upon receipt of the application form, the relevant EHP must ensure that the Application Form, where possible, is completed correctly.

d) The relevant EHP must inform the Applicant in writing or orally, as the case may be, that:

- His or her completed application form will be emailed to the Category B-Municipality, within whose area of jurisdiction such application applies;
- The relevant Municipality will/may visit and/or contact the Applicant regarding any further requirements, for regulation by the relevant Municipality; and
- That the Application will be dealt with by the Section Municipal Health as soon as possible in terms of the applicable regulation(s) and/or Norms and Standards applicable to the Section.

e) The completed Application Form will be sent by email to the relevant Category B-Municipality, per email, as soon as possible after receipt.

Where a completed application form has been sent by email to a Category B-Municipality, it is deemed to be sufficient notice to the Municipality concerned;

In the email referred to above, the Section will refer to the Protocol provided to all Category B Municipalities, and that the Section recommends that the relevant Category B-Municipality take the necessary steps to:

- Handle the application in accordance with the relevant municipality's applicable legislation, by-laws, policy prescriptions and stipulations, etc., and, if necessary, consult or inform any other role players, including other Departments or Institutions;
- Ensure that the Applicant complies with the set requirements of the relevant Category B-Municipality;

- Inform the Applicant regarding the decision of the relevant Municipality and / or any further steps, actions etc. by the relevant municipality; or
- If the relevant Category B-Municipality decides on the basis of their investigation that the Premises in question will not be approved by them, the Municipality will then take the necessary steps to close such premises on the basis of the municipality's legal provisions and inform the Section Municipal Health accordingly, in writing.
- Record the application form and any other relevant information.

f) After submission of the completed Application Form by the Section to the relevant Category B-Municipality, the Section will continue with the implementation of the set procedure(s) for the handling of applications and the issuance of Certificates, as prescribed by the applicable Regulation(s) and / or Norms and Standards for Environmental Health.

**EHP's main job is to ensure that every food business runs up to code and that public health and the environment are protected from harm.**

**An EHP is a food safety professional tasked with implementing and ensuring food safety laws.**

**An EHP inspection visit may be unannounced, routine, or result from a customer's food hygiene complaint.**

## WHAT ABOUT “EXPIRED” FOOD THAT’S FOR SALE?

First of all, there is no such legal term in terms of Regulation 146 of March 2010 which sets out the requirements for the labelling of foodstuffs, promulgated in terms of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act. It only refers to “best before”, “use by” or “sell by” dates.

This regulation also defines these date markings as follows: “Best Before” (BB) means the date which signifies the end of the period under the stated storage conditions during which the product will remain fully marketable and will retain any specific qualities for which tacit (implied) or express claims have been made. However, beyond the date the food may still be satisfactory.

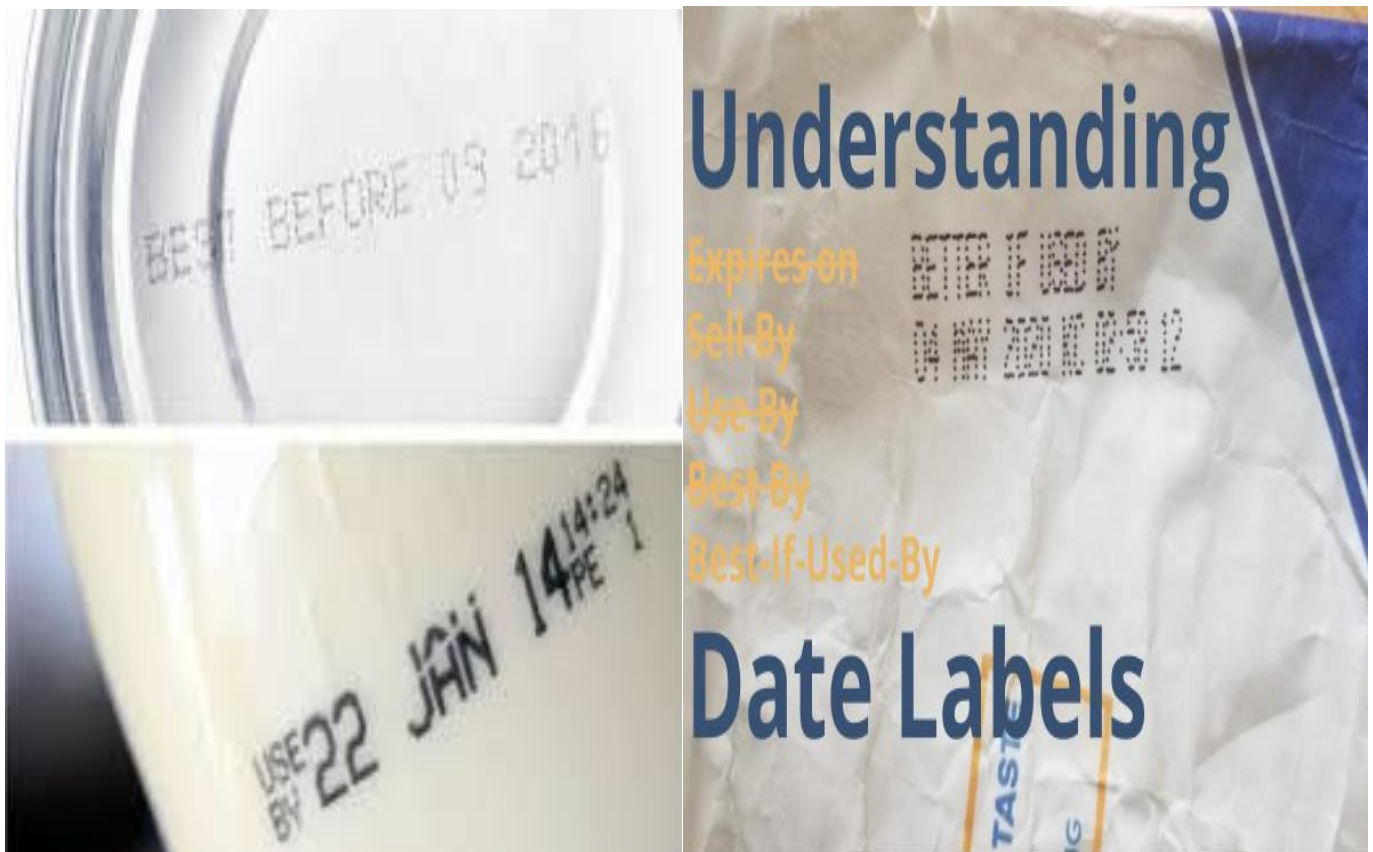
The best before date is thus not an indication of food safety but rather an issue of quality in terms of nutritional value, taste, texture and color. In other words, the “Best before” or “Sell by” date does not mean that the product has gone bad, but rather that the manufacturer cannot guarantee that the foodstuffs will still taste and look the same as it should.

Environmental Health Practitioners do not have the authority to unilaterally seize and destroy these products simply because the foodstuffs exceed the “best before” dates or “sell by” dates.

The purpose of the labelling regulations is there to enable the consumer to make informed decisions.

It is thus up to the consumer to check the date markings and to make an informed decision about the food products he or she purchases.

If the consumer does not purchase these expired items shop owners will not sell these items.





# LEAD EXPOSURE & LEAD POISONING

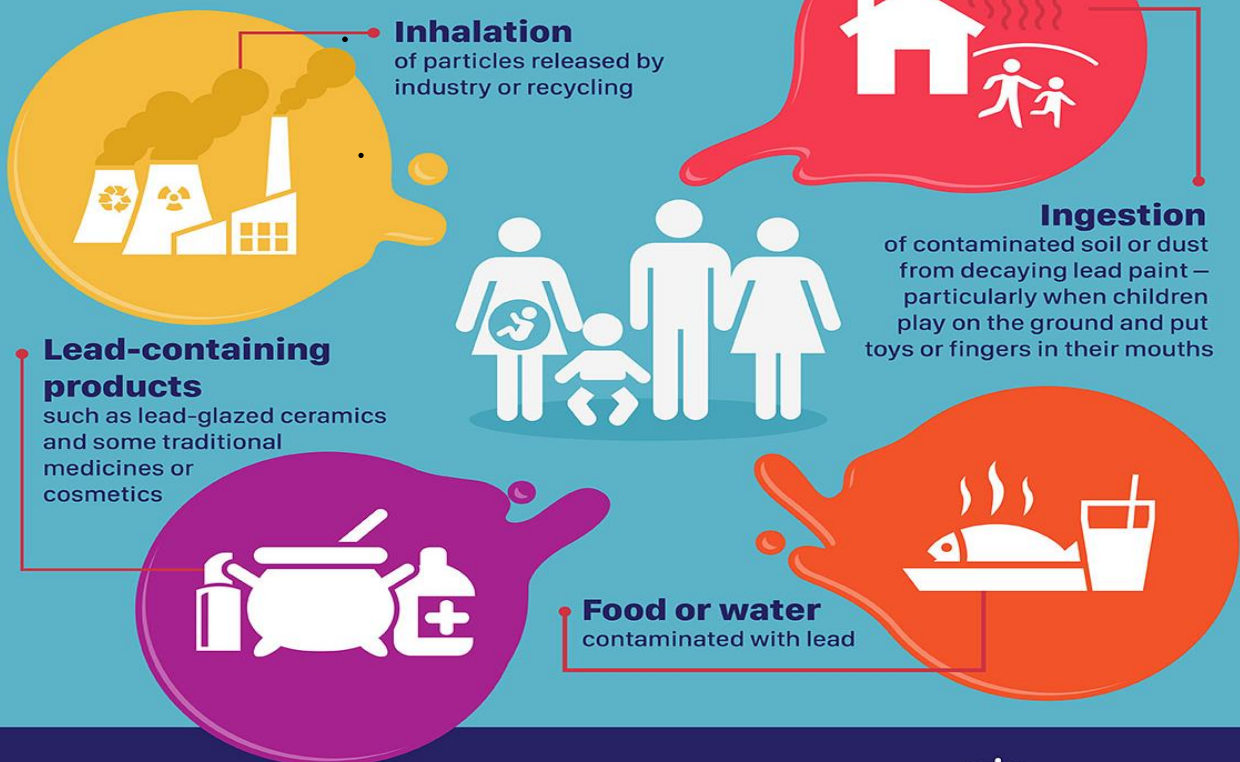
Lead poisoning from lead in paint is preventable and there are cost-effective, technically feasible alternatives to lead in paint.



Young children are particularly vulnerable because they have higher exposures than adults and because lead affects the developing brain, potentially resulting in reduced intellectual ability.

## LEAD EXPOSURE CAN OCCUR THROUGH...

#BanLeadPaint



**There is no safe level of lead exposure**



**World Health Organization**



There are many pollutants that are major factors in disease in humans. Among them, Particulate Matter (PM), particles of variable but very small diameter, penetrate the respiratory system via inhalation, causing respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, reproductive and central nervous system dysfunctions, and cancer.

Despite the fact that ozone in the stratosphere plays a protective role against ultraviolet irradiation, it is harmful when in high concentration at ground level, also affecting the respiratory and cardiovascular system. Furthermore, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), dioxins, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are all considered air pollutants that are harmful to humans.

Carbon monoxide can even provoke direct poisoning when breathed in at high levels. Heavy metals such as lead, when absorbed into the human body, can lead to direct poisoning or chronic intoxication, depending on exposure. Diseases occurring from the aforementioned substances include principally respiratory problems such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), asthma, bronchiolitis, and also lung cancer, cardiovascular events, central nervous system dysfunctions, and cutaneous diseases.

Last but not least, climate change resulting from environmental pollution affects the geographical distribution of many infectious diseases, as do natural disasters.

The only way to tackle this problem is through public awareness coupled with a multidisciplinary approach. Role players must address the emergence of this threat and propose sustainable solutions.



## HOW CAN A DUST STORM HARM MY HEALTH?

Relatively large particles of sand or dust usually remain in the nose, mouth or throat, and cause local irritation.

Smaller particles may be inhaled deeply into the lungs. Very small dust particles may enter the bloodstream and cause damage to blood vessels, as well as alter the coagulation pathway, cause structural and biological changes of the cells, leading to inflammatory response and increase the risk of heart failure and heart attacks.

Most of the time particles of sand or dust during storms are large and not inhaled; however, some people, especially those with existing breathing-related problems, such as asthma and emphysema, may experience difficulties.

**Dust control measures must be put in place to control dust from construction activities and all emissions must be in compliance with the National Environmental Management; Air Quality Act, 2004.**

**Dust must be adequately controlled to prevent a nuisance or hazard from continuing.**

**For industry that generates emissions to the atmosphere at any stage of the project life-cycle, emissions must be in compliance with the standards as specified by the National Act.**

## **NOSE POLLUTION & LEGAL REMEDIES**

The first option available is to lay a complaint with your local authority by way of a written statement.

Law enforcement officials will investigate the problem to see how serious the situation is. If necessary, they can instruct the reduction of the noise and if the offenders don't comply, can issue a fine, and in extreme cases even confiscate the equipment.

If the above remedy fails and the offender persists with the noise, it is then possible to approach a court for relief.

An affected party has two options in this regard.

You can apply for an interdict to prevent your neighbour from causing the specific noise, or sue your neighbour for damages suffered as a result of excessive noise caused by him/her.

An interdict can be granted if the neighbour's conduct is unlawful or threatens to be unlawful.

The factors that the courts generally take into account to determine if the actions are unlawful are: the type of noise, the degree of persistence, where the noise occurs, the times when the noise is heard and the efforts made to resolve the matter.

There is no fixed standard to determine the unlawfulness of the action and every matter will be adjudicated on its own set of facts.

If an interdict is granted and the neighbour still persists with the unlawful actions, the neighbour may be found guilty of contempt of court, in which case the court may impose a fine or imprisonment in serious cases.

### **The Regulations define noise disturbance as follows:**

**“Any sound which disturbs or impairs or may disturb or impair the convenience or peace of any person” and “disturbing noise” as “a noise level that exceeds the ambient sound level measured continuously at the same measuring point by 7 decibels or more.”**



An action for damages must be carefully approached as the success of the action will lie in what damages can be proven to have been caused by the noise. In an action where the neighbour is sued for damages, the following will generally have to be proven: the noise has negatively affected your quality of life, your health, your comfort, and/or your general well-being.

No matter what the type of nuisance, for it to be subject to interference and relief by courts or a local authority, it must be substantial and continuous.

One must bear in mind that your claim for your neighbour to lower his noise levels, is subject to the principle that your neighbour enjoys the same rights as you do in respect of the use and enjoyment of his / her own property.





## LOADSHEDDING: MHS RISK ANALYSIS

It is impossible to imagine the modern world without electricity. We are dependent on an uninterrupted source of power and when it fails the consequences can be devastating.

The Section: Municipal Health Services of the Central Karoo District Municipality took an initiative to analyze the risks that will affect our communities as well as our day-to-day responsibilities based on our key performance areas during a power outage.

Mitigation/control of the risks were identified to ensure that the community is protected from health hazards and that the Section continues to deliver an effective service.

Some household chemicals must not be thrown into your regular rubbish.

Always contact your local municipality with regards to disposing of different household and hazardous chemicals.



## Chemicals can

- cause you and others harm
- cause skin allergies and asthma
- cause skin burns and eye damage

### DO

Store chemicals safely:

- ✓ keep clean, cool, dry
- ✓ keep chemicals in their original containers
- ✓ secure storage to prevent access by vulnerable people

### DON'T

- ✗ mix chemical products
- ✗ use chemicals if you are not trained to use them safely
- ✗ leave chemical products unattended



**DID YOU  
KNOW...**

## **TOBACCO CONTROL**

A premises must comply with the requirements of the Regulations Relating to Smoking in Public Places and Certain Outdoor Public Places R 264 of 30 March 2012, published in terms of Tobacco Products Control Act, 1993 (Act No. 83 of 1993) as amended.



- Smoking of tobacco products in a public place is prohibited, except in a separate smoking area.
- The separate smoking area may not exceed 25% of the industry's total floor surface area. This 25% includes the toilets but exclude the kitchen and storeroom.
- The separate smoking area must be enclosed by a solid partition and an entrance on which the sign "SMOKING AREA" is displayed, written in black letters at least 2 cm high and 1.5 cm wide on a white background.
- The separate smoking area must be ventilated to ensure that air from the smoking area directly ventilate to the outside, but do not ventilate back into any other area of the public place.
- Signage to indicate smoking and non-smoking areas, where smoking is allowed and where not, must be provided.
- No person under the age of 18 may enter a smoking area.
- Access to the site's public facilities (toilets) may not be via a smoking area.
- Access to the premises may not be via a smoking area.
- According to the law you may create a separate smoking area for smokers that do not exceed 25% of the total floor space of your facility. Until the latter separate smoking area is established, smoking on the premises is prohibited.
- If you contravene the provisions of the mentioned legislation, you are guilty of an offense and you as owner of the business may be prosecuted and fined up to R50 000.

**If you have any uncertainty in terms of the application of this legislation you may contact this office for assistance.**

## VECTOR CONTROL

Vectors are living organisms that serve as vehicles to transmit a pathogen (a disease-causing agent like a virus or parasite) from a host to a human or to an animal or both. They are predominantly pests, such as insects and ticks.

Some vectors actively transmit pathogens, whereas others are passive transmitters.

Vector control is about using preventive methods to eradicate or control vector populations, in order to limit the transmission and spread of diseases.

Houseflies in comparison passively transmit diseases. They contaminate the food they come into contact with, which is then consumed and contaminates humans.

Ticks are a typical example of vectors that can transmit diseases not only to humans but also to animals (domestic and livestock, such as dogs or cattle).

Birds and mammals such as rats and mice can also be considered vectors, as they both can carry diseases and transmit them.

**Contact the Section Municipal Health Services for more information on the responsibilities of property owners, prevention and control measures etc.**



**LIFE IS LIKE  
LOOKING FOR YOUR  
PHONE. MOST OF  
THE TIME, IT'S IN  
YOUR HAND.**



## OUR ROLE IN MANAGING OF HUMAN REMAINS

The disposal of the dead, also known as the management of human remains, is one of the nine municipal health functions performed by Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) assigned to local governments under the National Health Act 2003 (Act no. 61 of 2003).

According to the National Health Act, handling of human remains, transportation, and funeral undertakers' facilities must all be inspected and monitored at least twice a year. However, ongoing monitoring is also required. Environmental health inspections include identifying, monitoring, and assessing health risks, nuisances, and hazards at funeral homes.

Where necessary, corrective and preventative actions are implemented.

The main functions of EHPs in the management of human remains is as follows:

1. EHPs ensure that funeral homes are operating under current certificates. Upon confirmation that the facility complies with environmental health regulations, a Certificate of Competency is issued.
2. EHPs further ensure that handling, collection, storage, and disposal of waste, including health care risk waste, comply with SANS 10248, Norms and Standards for waste management.
3. Conduct risk assessment to identify potential health hazards from the preparation and storage of human remains.

4. Ensures that the funeral undertaker premises have a pest control plan and that pest control services are performed at least once a month.
5. In case of non-compliance after an inspection, the relevant EHP will liaise with the owner of the funeral undertaker.
6. After each inspection, the EHPs ensure that the inspection report indicates the condition of the premises and relevant health recommendations are provided to the owner or person in charge.
7. EHPs ensure that a database of all premises in their area used for handling, preparing, and storing human remains is maintained.
8. EHPs must ensure that all facilities and equipment used in connection with the handling, preparation, storage, preservation, and transportation of human remains adhere to the regulation relating to the management of human remains, in accordance with National Health Act 61 of 2003.

IF YOU WANT  
SOMETHING YOU'VE  
NEVER HAD,  
THEN YOU'VE  
GOT TO DO  
SOMETHING YOU'VE  
NEVER DONE.



Rates charged for certain services are in accordance with the approved tariff structure of the Section for a specific financial year.

No service is provided, or any Certificate issued, before the fixed tariff has been paid.

New rates are implemented annually on 1st July - EHP's must ensure that application forms are adjusted accordingly.



## **GREENER MEETINGS ARE HEALTHIER MEETINGS!**

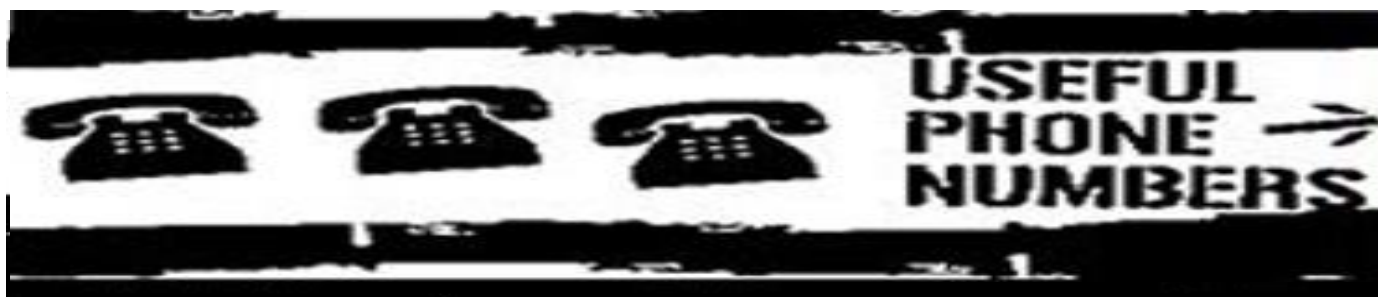
Think about the environment and health when planning your next meeting and conference.

A green meeting has a lower impact on the environment because the planners have deliberately limited the associated consumption of energy and resources. To protect public health and the environment to the greatest extent, you can incorporate specific options in your planning

### **Green Meeting Checklist**

- Offer teleconferencing and video conferencing services to limit travel.
- Choose central meeting locations, with accessible public transit.
- Distribute meeting materials electronically.
- Turn off electronic equipment when not in use.
- If food is provided, offer healthy choices from local vendors.
- Turn room lights off when you leave.
- Use only cups, bottles, dishes, and utensils that can be reused





<b>Central Karoo District Municipality</b>	Head Office: Beaufort West	023 - 449 1000
<b>Beaufort West Municipality</b>	Beaufort West Office	023 – 414 8100
	Murraysburg Office	049 – 844 0007/9
	Merweville Office	023 – 501 4057
	Nelspoort Office	023 – 416 1676
<b>Prince Albert Municipality</b>	Prince Albert Office	023 – 5411 320
	Leeu – Gamka Office	023 – 5212 135
	Klaarstroom Office	023 – 5411 193
<b>Laingsburg</b>	Laingsburg Office	023 – 5511 019

We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community. Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

- Cesar Chavez



Central Karoo District Municipality  
Section Municipal Health Services  
Tel: 023 – 449 1000



*Go the extra mile.  
It's never  
crowded.*