



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

Department of Water and Sanitation appeals for caution during the heatwave

30 October 2018

The searing heat that has engulfed major parts of South Africa is a source of concern and may lead to skin damage if humans are continuously exposed to the sun .

The Department of Water and Sanitation appeals to citizens to avoid unnecessary exposure to the sun until such time that the heatwave has subsided. The South African Weather Services has predicted some scattered heavy rains in the next few days that may help to bring down the high temperatures.

Meanwhile, citizens are advised to stay indoors as much as possible and drink lots of water to calm their bodies for the duration of the heatwave. For a quick dehydration drink, mix 6 level teaspoons of sugar and half a teaspoon of salt into 5 cups (1 litre) of water. Coconut water is also great for hydrating.

A heatwave occurs when a system of high atmospheric pressure moves into an area. In such a high-pressure system, air from upper levels of our atmosphere is pulled toward the ground, where it becomes compressed and increases in temperature.

Cape Town has been in the grip of a heatwave since last week.

The extreme heat is also affecting the Cape Winelands, West Coast district, Little Karoo, southern Namakwa district and coastal regions of the Northern Cape. Maximum temperatures soared to the upper 30s and lower 40s in these regions. During high temperature citizens are warned against unnecessary exposure to the sun as this may result in them suffering dehydration and skin diseases

The heatwave started with a Bergwind circulation on Monday. During Bergwind conditions, warm continental air warms up as flows from the interior towards the coast.

The Bergwind conditions were also severe along the south coast with numerous temperature records being broken for the month of October. Gauteng and the lowveld region of Mpumalanga were also affected. The severe weather further affected the soccer derby between Kaizer Chief and Orlando in Gauteng players as the referee halted the game intermittently to allow for water breaks.

However, meteorologists are predicting cooler temperatures later this week as showers are expected in parts of the country.

The heat notwithstanding, the department is appealing to citizens to continue saving water by using it wisely and sparingly.

End



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Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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