



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

The Department of Water and Sanitation issues water safety alerts as flash floods batter Tshwane

17 October 2018

Amid fears that two men have been swept off by the floods, the Department of Water and Sanitation has warned citizens to exercise caution after torrential downpours occurred across Gauteng over the weekend. Hailstorms reportedly ripped havoc in various parts of the province and rendered some roads unusable.

A weekly report published by the Department of Water and Sanitation indicates that the rains have had little effect on the country's average dam levels as they decreased slightly from 74,5% to 73,8%.

With the novelty of summer, the South African Weather Services is predicting more rains in most parts of the country by next week and residents are warned to be on high alert for any possible flash floods.

In the Eastern Cape dam levels have decreased by a fraction from 65,7% to 65,3%. The Kouga Dam increased from 52,9% to 53,6%; Loerie Dam is at 89,2% down from 90,5% last week. Umtata Dam levels decreased by a fraction from 97,4% to 97,1%.

Western Cape dam levels have decreased by 0,1% from 66,3% to 66,2%. The Voelvllei Dam water levels increased from 96,3% to 96,6%. The Theewaterskloof Dam, one of the main six dams that feed Cape Town, has decreased from 58,4% to 58,3%. The Clanwilliam Dam water levels decreased from 100,1% to 99,5% while Voelvllei Dam levels is up from 96,3% to 96,6%.

In Gauteng the Vaal Dam is at 86,6% showing a slight decrease from 87,4% recorded last week. The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) decreased from 78,4% to 77,7% when compared to the same time last year at 74,2%.

In KwaZulu-Natal the Umgeni System which comprises of the Albert Falls, Nagle and Inanda Dams decreased by a fraction from 68,8% last week to 68,2%. The Inanda Dam is at 66,0%, Albert Falls water dam levels decreased from 46,2% to 45,7%; Nagle decreased from 70,0% to 67,9% and Hazelmere has decreased from 67,2% to 66,2%.

Free State Province dam levels decreased from 87,6% to 86,6%. Last year during the same time they were recorded at 73,7%. The North West Province was at 58,9% last week and has now decreased to 58,4%. Recordings during the same time last year were at 77,9%. North West boasts dams such as Sehujuwane at 74,1% and Madikwe at 41,8%.

The Northern Cape Province is at 84,7% this week, an increase from 82,7% from last week. Spitskop Dam in the Northern Cape is at 78,9%.

The Limpopo Province is at 64,6% down from 65,5% last week. Magoebaskloof Dam (Tzaneen) is at 97,9%, Hans Merensky Dam (Phalaborwa) at 78,9% and Flag Boshielo (Polokwane) at 81,7%.



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The Mpumalanga Province dam levels have decreased from 72,2% to 71,7%. Mpumalanga has dams such as the Witbank at 94,6%, Loskop Dam at 88,0% and Middleburg Dam at 94,5%.

Due to the floods in parts of Gauteng, the department has advised residents to take the following precautions in case of floods: If possible, stay indoors and off the roads. Avoid crossing rivers and swollen streams where water is above your ankles. If trapped in a vehicle during a flood, abandon the vehicle and get to higher ground. Take special care of children; keep them away from flooded streams and rivers during storm conditions. Make sure that water can flow freely through your yard.

Residents must channel flood water in the direction of the nearest road or drainage system. Never drive on a road that is totally covered by water and no road surface can be seen. In the event of your vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.

End

Issued by the Department of Water & Sanitation

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