



SA FIRE WATCH

Fire and Safety Compliance

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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VOL1 NO2

The Kingdom of Fire



CONTENTS

WHAT IS THE SAFETY LEVEL OF YOUR SOLAR PANELS

03

THREADING A NEEDLE

04 - 05



THREADING A NEEDLE PAGE 04

THE KINGDOM OF FIRE

06 - 07



THE KINGDOM OF FIRE PAGE 06 - 07

ITS GETTING HOT IN HERE

08

FREDDIE'S FARM

09

BLAZING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

10



IT'S GETTING HOT IN HERE PAGE 08

CLASSIFIEDS

11

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WHAT IS THE SAFETY LEVEL OF YOUR SOLAR PANELS



Inadequate installation is a leading cause of fires in solar panels. It is crucial to verify that your service provider is experienced and can provide references. The safety checklist provided can offer reassurance. Last year, South Africans imported approximately ZAR 17.5 billion worth of solar panels. Aerial views once revealed the prevalence of swimming pools; now, they highlight the number of homes with solar panels on their roofs. Fire Ops South Africa reports an average of 11-12 fires daily in the Gauteng region over the last year.

"As a private service, we attend to two to four incidents daily, with every sixth fire being related to solar panels," stated De Wet Engelbrecht, CEO of Fire Ops SA. Insurance companies caution that claims may be denied if solar panels are not installed properly. "If your installation is done by an unqualified local installer or if improper use leads to a fire, your insurance claim may be at risk," advised Earnest North, CEO of Naked Insurance.

Photo: Gallo Images / Jacques Stander
Authored For Daily Maverick by Neesa Moodley

Solar panels are becoming an increasingly common sight to South African residences, and with their proliferation, there has been a notable uptick in the incidence of fires linked to these energy-saving installations.





THREADING A NEEDLE

Compliance is not just about your building occupancy, but also knowing the inner and outer thread.

- Paul Morris (HS Executive SA Fire Watch)

For property and estate owners, managers, and body corporate members, the paramount challenge lies in grasping the essential principles of compliance concerning building occupation. The cornerstone of this understanding is rooted in the awareness of one's environmental context. It's about recognizing the subtle differences between the garden that adorns your doorstep and the wild flora and fauna that thrive just beyond. The choice of flowers in your garden isn't just an aesthetic decision—it could very well influence your destiny in the event of a fire.

Being fire-savvy involves more than just environmental consciousness; it encompasses a comprehensive approach to both environmental and building occupancy management. Such awareness and proactive management can be the deciding factors in swiftly identifying the cause of a fire, thereby avoiding protracted disputes with insurance firms or local authorities.

THREADING A NEEDLE



In the face of summer's arid embrace and the escalating heatwaves brought on by climate change, the dream of a lush garden comes with significant considerations. Homeowners are urged to adopt preventive strategies in tending to their verdant lawns and floral beds. As sustainability emerges as a pressing concern, the collective responsibility for water conservation becomes paramount. Occupants must recognize their role in the broader context of water's value chain and its equitable distribution—a critical component not just for nurturing gardens, but also as a reserve for firefighting efforts.

Before we begin to thread the needle, we must evaluate the cloth and size of the needle as far as compliancy is concerned.

What is the story of the Protea flower?

Proteas: South Africa's Iconic Floral Beauty -
Protea was first documented by Dutch botanist and explorer Carl Linnaeus in 1735. Linnaeus named the plant after the Greek god Proteus, known for his ability to change his form. This name was fitting, given the protea's unique and diverse appearance.



The protea, a symbol of our nation's splendor, embodies the promise of an African renaissance. This emblematic flower signifies the emergence of growth from the soil, nourished by the elements, illustrating a harmonious union of natural forces.

THE KINGDOM OF FIRE



THE KINGDOM OF FIRE

Courtesy : Yusuf Allie - Director SA Fire Watch,

Quelling a wildfire is a formidable task, but fostering fire awareness within communities is becoming increasingly crucial. SA Fire Watch advocates for a concerted effort by private enterprises to implement fire safety and awareness training for all employees, from entry-level to executive. Such education could significantly mitigate the damage fires inflict on properties, assets, and lives. It's imperative for companies to equip their workforce with this essential knowledge, particularly to safeguard company assets against fire hazards.



Imagine a scenario where a gardener, untrained in fire response, inadvertently allows a blaze to spread while disposing of garden waste. The ensuing chaos, with the gardener frantically searching for water to douse the flames, underscores the necessity for community-wide proficiency in basic fire safety and awareness. It's time to initiate change and diminish the prevalence of fires attributed to human error.

{ This Greek god known as Proteus, the mythology has inspired many over the centuries. Here in South Africa; Coat of Arms, Educational Institutions, 4 Star Hotels, to Cricket, nature has found its footprint on inspiring creativity. The very same nature, without sufficient knowledge can be a destructive master. }

ITS GETTING HOT IN HERE



PRE-ENGINEERED FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEMS

In scenarios where water poses a greater threat than flames to data, devices, and people, the adoption of pre-engineered fire suppression systems emerges as a superior solution.



BLAZING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

Article Extract By: Muhammad Rizwan Azhar, Edith Cowan University
HS Department SA Fire Watch, Vehicle Image: Pinterest

Most electric vehicles are packed with lithium-ion batteries. They're the same powerhouses that fuel our smartphones and laptops – celebrated for their ability to store heaps of energy in a small space.

You are cruising down Camps Bay beach in your brand new electric vehicle. Your kids back are throttling their thumbs on an Ipad, and your teenage daughter is busy in instagram on her brand new laptop. What if this idyllic drive could turn into a nightmare, with something faint smell of something burning?

When a lithium-ion battery fire breaks out, the damage can be extensive. These fires are not only intense, they are also long-lasting and potentially toxic.



What to do if a lithium-ion fire has started?

It is environmentally friendly and is made from the naturally occurring mineral vermiculite. AVD offers superior performance to both control and extinguish flammable lithium-ion battery fires. AVD's enhanced fire extinguishing properties, when compared with conventional extinguishing products, make it the only fire extinguishing agent you should consider for lithium-ion battery fires.

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VOL1 NO2 Page09

FREDDIE'S FARM



Nestled within the SA Fire Watch courtyard at the Ottery Youth Care and Education Centre is a farm that stands as a testament to organic cultivation, offering a bounty of green peppers, parsley, French beans, pumpkins, maize, tomatoes, and a flock of geese. In an inspiring display of compassion transcending his professional expertise, Freddie, a SAQCC-certified detection technician, has earned the admiration of SA Fire Watch management by nursing an injured goose back to health. This act of kindness showcases his multifaceted character beyond his fire safety skills. In a show of support, SA Fire Watch employees patronize Freddie's farm, acquiring his organic harvest at modest prices.

Courtesy : Freddie Louw, - SA Fire Watch,
Images: SA Fire Watch





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