

## Message from the Director

Building occupants must have trained personnel in fire and first aid procedures and the building layout. The no-touch method becomes somehow precarious in the nature of regulations and guidelines as far as fire safety is concerned.

The new smart doors become an incumbent in the event of an emergency and evacuation. Where fire drills are to be undertaken, it becomes a cumbersome task where visitors are not in possession of the smart key cards to unlock doors, posing an even greater safety threat to both tenants, visitors and people with disabilities.

So much emphasis was placed by many building owners and may have unintentionally fallen behind on dealing with matters of fire safety.

It is easy to prescribe to caution, but in the long run, it could turn out to be extremely expensive on human life in the case of a fire emergency.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!

This months newsletter  
You can expect:

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Women in fire

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Redefining fire  
Safety and compliance

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SA Fire's Post covid-19  
analysis

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Your emergency  
responders team

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Fire risk assessment

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# WOMEN IN FIRE

In the modern saga of South Africa's SA Fire Watch, a narrative unfolds that harkens back to the egalitarian societies of our hunter-gatherer ancestors. Here, women wield power not through physical prowess but through the mastery of systems and financial management.

Women have always been the unsung heroines behind the scenes where the essence of their contribution is a subtle yet potent force, integral to the organization's heartbeat.



**Fierial Coetzee**  
Receptionist

At the forefront stands Fierial, the receptionist, often the first voice one hears and the first presence one encounters.

Not only does her role extend beyond the conventional duties of a receptionist; she is also the connective tissue linking various departments and ensuring the smooth flow of information.



**Shamiella Allie**  
Financial Director

As the Finance Director at SA Fire Watch, Shamiella Allie exemplifies the idea that true influence is about guiding, not commanding. While she may share her life with the company's leader, it's her own expertise that has carved out her place in the industry, showcasing that knowledge and leadership are not just inherited traits but earned accolades.

The Financial Director's team is not just a functional unit but a cornerstone of the company's success, embodying the principles of integrity, diligence, and foresight. They are the silent architects of growth, the unsung strategists of sustainability, and the vigilant guardians of the company's fiscal future.

# WOMEN IN FIRE



**Karen & Chantal**

Within the bustling hive of this operation lies the administration department, a vital cog in the company's expansive machinery.

At the helm of this division are Aqeedah and Tenika, a duo whose proficiency in tender management is rapidly becoming the stuff of corporate legend.

They boast a remarkable success rate in securing tenders, a figure that heralds a promising trajectory for the fledgling pair.

Their meticulous attention to detail also ensures the company's integrity and operational fluidity. In this year this duo shielded SA Fire Watch from unnecessary financial turbulence, salvaging over R100,000 from a convoluted supplier statement.



**Tenika & Aqeedah**



**Roshana**

At the bustling financial nerve center, Roshana's experience over the industry's regulatory standards necessitated its expansion with the introduction of a client management system.

Which introduced the enlistment of two assistants, who are pivotal in orchestrating the symphony of data and numbers that flow through the company's veins.

Together, with Karen and Chantal, this trio forms a formidable force, ensuring that SA Fire Watch's financial operations are not just maintained but propelled forward.

**SA Fire Watch's mission is a bold declaration of change, a resonant anthem that calls for a profound transformation within industry. It is a mission that carries the torch of pride and empathy, illuminating the path toward a future where women lead with authority and grace.**

# REDEFINING FIRE SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

Pictorial: SA Fire Watch

In a significant stride towards educational excellence and environmental stewardship, SA Fire Watch is poised to relocate its headquarters to Lansdowne in June. The new premises promise not only more space but also an environment conducive to learning. The installation of state-of-the-art fire training simulators marks a leap forward in providing realistic and immersive fire response experiences.

As we emerge from the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, SA Fire Watch remains vigilant, upholding all health protocols to ensure the safety of its clients and staff. This move heralds a new chapter of adventure and commitment for SA Fire Watch, as it continues to blaze a trail in fire safety training while honoring its pledge to the planet.

**Aligned with  
SA  
Fire Watch's  
green  
vision, these  
facilities are  
designed to  
minimize  
carbon  
emissions,  
addressing the  
environmental  
impact that  
traditional fire  
training can  
have.**

# REDEFINING FIRE SAFETY & COMPLIANCE

Recognizing this urgency, SA Fire Watch facility expansion is to accommodate larger groups, enabling more comprehensive training sessions for organizations.

The benefits of such training are clear and immediate, equipping a greater number of staff members with the skills to respond to emergencies.

The investment in fire safety training is an investment in peace of mind, knowing that when every second counts, your organization is ready to act.

In the shadow of the pandemic's long-term effects, the approach to first aid training is evolving with a renewed emphasis on safety and realism. Manikins will become the standard for practice, ensuring that trainees can apply their skills in a way that mirrors real-life scenarios, all while adhering to stringent personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols.

We here at SA Fire, are charting a new course in the realm of emergency preparedness, but also deeply versed in health and safety protocol which is a cornerstone of building occupancy compliance.

In harmony with the heartfelt sentiments of Geordin Hill-Lewis, the Mayor of Cape Town, S.A Fire Watch is charting a course of meaningful progress.



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Pictorial: SA Fire Watch

The mayor's passionate articles and his active role in signing declarations have shone a light on the city's dedication to aiding communities ravaged by fires and severe storms. Inspired by his fervor, SA Fire Watch is proactively expanding to address these critical issues.

Our efforts are a testament to our commitment to alleviating the strain on resources throughout the Western Cape, ensuring that relief and support reach those in dire need. This alignment of our goals with the mayor's vision underscores our shared dedication to nurturing and protecting our community.

We are hoping that this initiative will garner the attention of Cape Town's Mayor, Geordin Hill-Lewis, who passionately emphasized the importance of emergency response as well as the need for resources to help rebuild and recover from these disasters.





# POST COVID-19 ANALYSIS

Pictorial: SA Fire Watch

As the world grappled with the unprecedented lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses faced a future fraught with uncertainty. The new norm was isolation, a stark contrast to the bustling activity of pre-pandemic life.

For Faakhir, the SA Fire SAQCC Technician Team Leader, the pandemic era was paradoxically a period of intense activity.

The empty facilities, usually teeming with people, provided an unexpected opportunity for his team to execute their tasks with unparalleled efficiency and without the usual interruptions of daily operations.

His experience reflects a broader narrative of resilience and ingenuity, where the challenges of COVID-19 have become catalysts for growth and reimagining the future wherein lies the potential for reinvention and progress.

**"It was a time when grand-scale projects could be brought to completion with a new found luxury of space and time."**



# POST COVID-19 ANALYSIS

## After The After

In the bustling world of fire safety and emergency preparedness, a concerning trend has emerged as per Faakhir, a seasoned professional in the field.

Where he sees the oversight and troubling observation where it is noted an obvious disregard for crucial elements that are essential for meeting building safety standards.

This gap in vigilance, Faakhir notes, undermines the very foundation of what it means to be prepared for the unexpected. For him and his team, they are not just about ticking boxes, but of upholding a standard of care that protects lives and properties, a standard that should never be compromised.

Fire detectors and emergency systems are like quiet guardians that keep us safe. It's not only important for building owners to take care of these systems because it's requirement but also because it's their promise to keep everyone in the building safe.

Every six months, the heartbeat of a fire detector relies on the simple act of changing a battery. It's a ritual that ensures the pulse of safety continues uninterrupted. Inspections and services of fire extinguishers, alarms, and emergency lighting are sacred duties that safeguard our collective peace of mind.

Yusuf, the vigilant Director at SA Fire Watch, implores building custodians to embrace their role as protectors. With the advent of new escape doors, the responsibility to update fire risk inspections and emergency plans has never been more pressing.

As we stand in the aftermath of a global crisis that tested every facet of our lives, the fire safety industry emerges not weakened, but fortified. The pandemic has been a crucible for innovation, compelling us to rethink our approach to safety and emergency preparedness.

# YOUR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TEAM



In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the call for widespread first aid training has never been more pressing. Experts now advise that an ideal safety protocol involves training multiple individuals in first aid within any given company or building. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic saw a surge in online learning platforms, offering theoretical first aid courses. But it is clear, that these virtual classrooms fall short of qualifying individuals as certified first aid responders. The crux of effective first aid training lies in hands-on, practical experience, something that cannot be fully replicated in the digital space.

In accordance with SAQA regulations, staff must demonstrate these practical abilities to achieve official certification as the call to action is clear: elevate first aid training.

## **Fire Marshalls**

Did you know that having a fire marshall on your premises is due to “The Marshall Fire” a fire which happened in Colorado, December 2021. It became the most destructive fire in Colorado's history in terms of buildings destroyed and highlighted the importance of the fire marshall's role.

In the critical discourse on building safety, the spotlight has turned to the imperative of enhancing fire equipment usage and alarm response times. Where experts are now currently advocating for the appointment of multiple fire marshalls within a single occupancy which can shorten the window of vulnerability during an emergency. SA Fire Watch emerges as a pivotal ally in this domain, offering specialized services to conduct these vital assessments. With a team of trained professionals, we are equipped to analyze the delicate balance of distance and time in emergency situations, guiding organizations in the strategic enrollment of staff for advanced first aid and fire marshall training.

# YOUR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TEAM

At the heart of our mission lies a deep-seated commitment to health and safety—a vision passionately shared by our Director, Yusuf Allie.

His dedication is the cornerstone of the SA Fire Schools Project (previously Safma), a noble initiative that, despite the setback of insufficient corporate social investments, continues to pursue ways and means to get this project up and running again even if it's from his personal contributions.

"I will not disappoint the schools. I'm going to carry on with it," he asserts, a testament to his unwavering resolve. It's this protective ideology that has been the genesis of SA Fire Watch.

We at SA Fire watch can navigate the complexities of safety requirements with precision, offering tailored risk assessments for each unique location.

This service transcends mere compliance but is our pledge to awaken the importance of health and safety, honoring the clear vision that Yusuf Allie has set forth.



# FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT



It is more ideal to have more than one person in your company or building trained in first aid. Post covid-19 risk assessments determines that generally having more staff first aiders allows for a more extensive coverage of your occupied space in a building.

It is also pertinent to have different personnel on different floors for buildings with more than just a ground floor. This covers for your staff members as well as associated visitors, who can in turn relay information to paramedics on site.

**“Time redundancy will be shortened as far as local authority emergency responders get to your premises with more trained staff in any given occupied space.”**

## **You vs Safety**

Increasing the level of first aid from the 1 day course to a longer duration course suitably creates a safer environment. With the covid 19 pandemic, online classes were introduced, these however are theoretical skills which do not qualify staff members as first aid responders.

Employers and building owners should note that practical skills are the most reliable training any individual can receive, converting class into active personnel, more so where there is a life threatening situation, Your staff must have a practical skill to be certified with relevant SAQA skills provisioned by law.

# FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT



## **Time Redundancy**

Increased level of use of fire equipment and response time to fire alarms are some of the key notes that need to be addressed in building occupancy.

Having more than one fire Marshall is a key ingredient in ensuring the safe guarding of your assets and life in you building space. Having more personnel trained in firefighting and evacuation could be the difference between a long tussle with your insurance company investigators and salvaging all your assets and protecting the life of your staff members.

Having competent personnel to protect your assets, staff and visitors alike places your company as a more valuable business partner for your customers and staff members. Using the building security in day light working hours is not a suitable route as the security is not in a position to be available on the floor in the offices, thereby only prolonging the time your company staff members get to receive assistance, or maybe too late for the assistance to salvage your assets.

## **Distance and Time**

You as an employer must also make a risk assessment where lives matter, the distance from the hospital or a medical clinic may be the difference between saving a life and losing one. And also calculate the time paramedics and firefighters respond to the scene of the incident is crucial.

This risk assessments can be done for you by SA Fire Watch, who have trained personnel and possess capacity to calculate the distance versus time of a given life threatening situation for you as an organization to determine how many staff members you can enroll for higher levels of first aid and fire Marshall.

SA Fire Watch Occupational Health and Safety department is available at your call to have a clear understanding on the real requirements as far as safety is concerned and provide for risk assessment based on your location.



# FIRE RISK ASSESSMENT

## Climate Impact Assessment

Summer 2024 proved to be the most challenging for the Disaster and Risk management in the Western Cape. There were fires in mountain and vegetation fires posing danger to human life and property.

Having informed and knowledgeable staff in health and safety standards is a key component on building occupancy compliance.

And also, the effects and challenges that climate change continue to pose on our land, leaves victims grasping for emergency medical and firefighting personnel responders, who may be thinly spread making it difficult to receive assistance in a timeous fashion.

**For more information and request for risk assessment on this,  
email [paul@safirewatch.co.za](mailto:paul@safirewatch.co.za)**

Addressing the challenge of time redundancy where medical and fire emergency responders are thinly spread out.



# SA FIRE WATCH EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



**ROSHANA JOHNSTONE**  
**ACCOUNTS MANAGER**



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