



Supporting **Fire Services**

SOUTH AFRICA



By: Claire Lötter – Head SFS-SA



The Changing Fire Environment

*The fire risk landscape is
changing faster than our systems
were designed to accommodate*

Shared Resilience

- Climate variability
- Rapid urban expansion often into high-risk areas
- Municipal fiscal pressure
- More catastrophic events
- Increasing infrastructure exposure
- Increased losses
- Increasing complexity of fire risk



A System Alignment Challenge

Major fires can change landscapes, damage vegetation cover and destabilise soils, creating vulnerability to secondary impacts long after the flames have been extinguished.

Fire risk sits across policy, funding, operational capacity, climate exposure and governance.

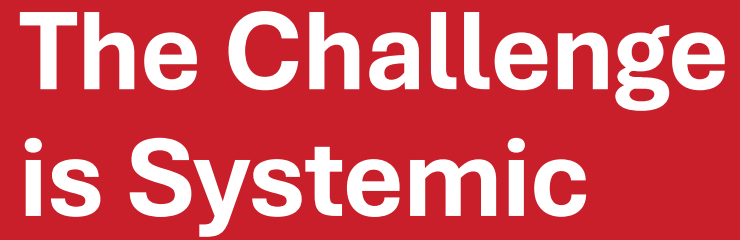


Strengthening fire services requires strengthening the ecosystem around them.

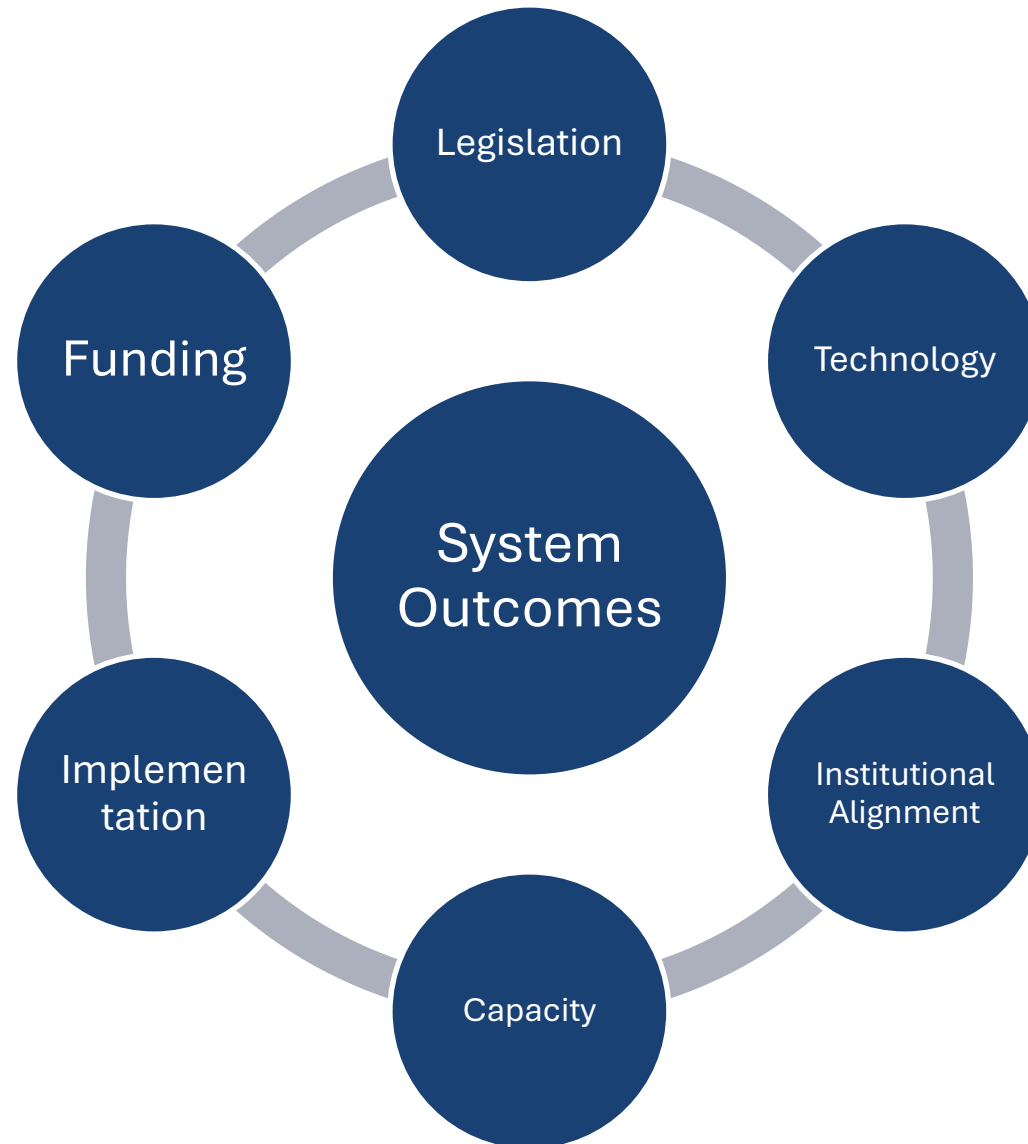


South Africa does not have a fire expertise problem.

We have a system alignment problem.



South Africa doesn't have an expertise problem - it's a systems alignment failure



Establishment of SFS-SA

- Independent
- Non-profit
- Catalytic ecosystem enabler
- Support targeted interventions
- Greater impact than individual action alone



Our Founders:



Who Is Supporting Fire Services SA – SFS-SA

SFS-SA Is:

- ✓ A catalytic strategic enabler
- ✓ An advocate for change
- ✓ A partnership facilitator
- ✓ A resilience builder
- ✓ An ecosystem supporter



SFS-SA Is Not:

- x A fire service
- x A regulator or compliance authority
- x Replacement of existing structures

“Strengthening the ecosystem, not replacing it.”

STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLABORATION

Fire does not exist in isolation.

It affects people, infrastructure, environments and economies.

A resilient fire ecosystem strengthens prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

When the system becomes stronger, everybody benefits.



ONE ECOSYSTEM • ONE GOAL • SHARED RESILIENCE



Our Strategic Focus

Three ways we create impact across the fire services ecosystem



CONNECT

We bring people and organisations together.



Build partnerships and collaborate across sectors.



Facilitate dialogue and knowledge sharing.



Align efforts to address gaps and avoid duplication.



ENABLE

We provide the tools, knowledge and support to drive effective action.



Support capability development and standards.



Champion research, innovation and evidence-based solutions.



Provide strategic input to policy, legislation and best practice.



STRENGTHEN

We strengthen systems and communities for a more resilient South Africa.



Build organisational and system resilience.



Improve readiness and response to fire-related risks.



Support communities and sectors to reduce risk and enhance resilience.



ONE GOAL:

A more resilient South Africa through a stronger fire services ecosystem.



SFS-SA Programmes



Capacity Building & Development

- Advocacy
- Training
- Leadership development
- Bylaw development
- Fire safety & prevention
- Physical & mental health
- ICS across all disaster incidents
- Capacity building
- Awareness



Service Support

- Risk assessments
- Fire hydrant maintenance
- Development of fire master plans
- Aerial firefighting
- Strategic firebreaks



Resourcing

- Firefighting capacity
- Veldfire management
- Dangerous goods management
- Volunteer/reserve firefighting force
- Equipment provision
- PPE



Where is SFS-SA In It's Journey

- ICS / IMT training
- Leadership development
- Fire hydrant programme
- Awareness & prevention
- Wildfire readiness
- FPA engagements
- QRF programme

*Success is not measured
by the number of projects
we undertake...*

Why Collaboration Matters



KEY ENABLERS



Cross-sector collaboration



Policy alignment & support



Sustainable funding & resource support



Shared accountability & coordination



Research, innovation & continuous learning



Integrity, independence & impact focus

ENABLING IMPACT



STRONGER
FIRE SERVICES



SAFER
COMMUNITIES



RESILIENT
ECONOMY



A MORE RESILIENT
SOUTH AFRICA



Looking Ahead

- Climate Resilience
- Prevention & Preparedness
- Emerging Risks
- Knowledge Sharing
- Stronger Partnerships
- System Alignment
- Sustainable Fire Services
- Sustainable FPA's
- Advocacy

Shared Risks.

Shared Resilience.

Shared Responsibility.



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Our focus isn't on the flames themselves - it's on strengthening the systems that prevent, contain, and recover from them.

Because resilience is not built by any one organisation.

It is built collectively



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