



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE
& TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

FPASA ANNUAL IN-FIRE CONFERENCE

**Topic: The Importance of Partnerships in Enhancing Disaster Management and Fire
Services**

Date: 3 June 2026

Presenter: Mr John Alexander EC-PDMC

Build Back Better



SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES BETTER





Mr John Alexander
Deputy Director Fire Services
EC-Cogta Provincial disaster
management centre

The Importance of Partnerships in Enhancing Disaster Management and Fire Services

- Focal Person for Fire and Rescue Services in the Eastern Cape Province, with 21 years of experience in both Provincial and Local Government. Management Diploma majoring in Fire Technology with distinction, supported by Municipal Finance Management, SAMTRAC (OHS), and internationally recognised NFPA 1001 Firefighter certification. Qualified Facilitator, Assessor, and Moderator, with expertise in Fire risk assessment, prevention strategies, and incident command (ICS 100, 200, 300 & Logistics Section Chief).
- Additional specialist capabilities include serving as a Responsible Person for Flight Operations and Certified Drone Pilot (VLOS & BVLOS). Formed part of the LEMA EXCON Member and part of INSARAG AEME ERE (December 2025 – South Africa), contributing to advanced emergency and urban search and rescue coordination.

- In today's rapidly evolving risk environment, partnerships and collaboration are critical to strengthening disaster management and fire services. By working together across government, emergency services, the private sector, academia, and communities, we can enhance preparedness, improve coordinated responses, and build resilient communities.
- Maximizing the use of technology and scientific innovation further enables smarter decision-making, early warning systems, and more effective emergency operations, ensuring a safer and more responsive future for all.

Legislation Enabling Private Public Partnerships

Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996

Section 41 – Cooperative governance: mandates collaboration across spheres of government and supports formal agreements.

Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987

Permits mutual aid and cross-boundary fire service agreements.

Disaster Management Act, 2002 & National Disaster Management Framework (NDMF)

Enables Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Mutual Assistance Agreements with government, private sector, NGOs, and communities for preparedness, response, and recovery.

Municipal Systems Act, 2000

Allows municipalities to enter service delivery and partnership agreements, including PPPs.

Municipal Structures Act, 1998

Supports inter-municipal cooperation and shared services models through formal

South African legislation explicitly enables PPPs to strengthen disaster resilience and fire services

Without clear governance, legal compliance, financial transparency, and accountability, PPP's risk undermining public interest, service delivery and potential disputes

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B2B

BACK TO BASICS
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- Climate change-driven disasters
- Urbanization and informal settlements
- Industrial and technological hazards
- Transportation of hazardous substances
- Socio-economic vulnerability



EC- COGTA / SANTAM PARTNERSHIP

- 20 municipal fire safety officials successfully completed Fire Risk Assessment and Prevention Strategies (FRAPS) training. **Potential force multiplier**
- Veld firefighting foam provided to improve fire suppression readiness.
- 2 districts (JGDM & CHDM) supported with fire skid unit pumps to enhance operational response capabilities.
- ICS 700, 100; 200 & 300 introductory training delivered to support the establishment of a provincial Incident Management Team (IMT).



EC- COGTA / SANTAM PARTNERSHIP

- As part of the community capacity-building initiative, 80 unemployed residents from Raymond Mhlaba and KSD Local Municipalities were trained in basic wildland firefighting and disaster management volunteer work.
- This program not only equipped participants with essential skills to support fire prevention and emergency response efforts but also contributed to local employment opportunities, enhanced community resilience, and strengthened the overall response capabilities of the municipalities



Turning Collaboration into Results



MR OLOWETHU APLENI - FIRE FIGHTER VOLUNTEER



@Cogta Eastern Cape



@ecogta



@ecogta



@EasternCapeCOGTA



EC-COGTA – FPASA PARTNERSHIP

- Fire risk classification assessments designed to measure a Fire brigades' performance against SANS 10090:2018 Community protection against fire
- All Metros, Districts and Local Municipalities in Eastern Cape have been assessed using this standard.
- The Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa (FPASA) has played a pivotal role in initiatives addressing vulnerabilities.
- The assessment is in 2 folds, it measures the municipal service and individual stations performances.

BUSINESS COMMUNITY

CASINO's, Insurance companies, Mining companies, chambers of commerce, Business association...ET AL.

NGO, NPC & ASSOCIATIONS

Part funding from various stakeholders with a direct impact to the Fire Services.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Direct requirement From the municipality. budgetary

PROVINCE

PDMC, Provincial and Government SALGA

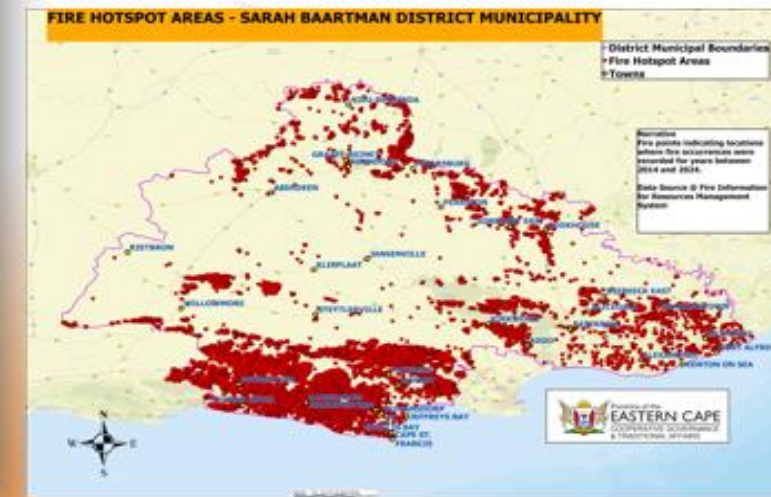
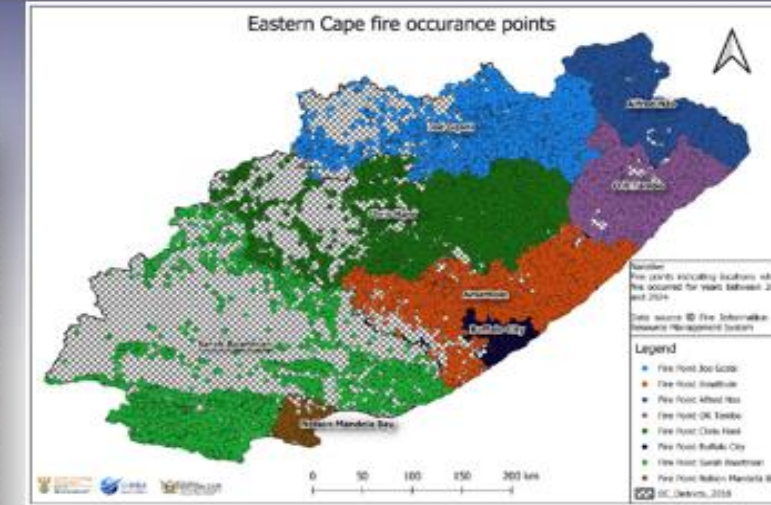
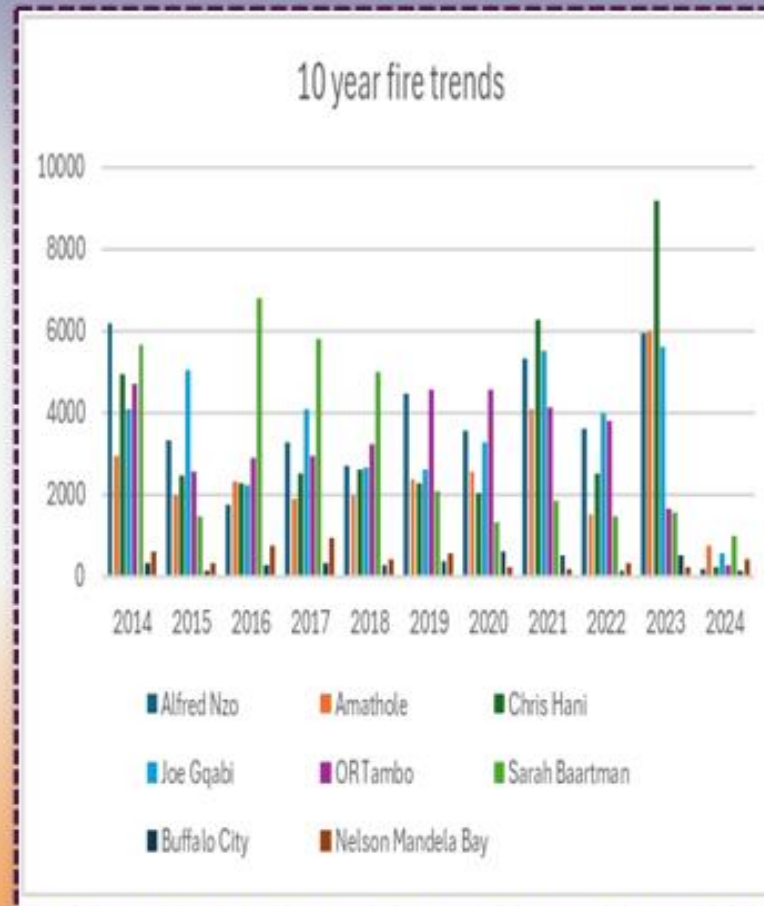
NATIONAL

. NDMC



EC- COGTA / SANSA – SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SPACE AGENCY

- **Informed Decision-Making:** Disaster managers receive geospatial data on fire location, extent, and intensity, which is essential for making critical decisions regarding resource allocation and deployment during an incident.
- **Strategic Resource Management:** helps managers develop effective strategies to suppress fires and manage the landscape.
- **Public and Emergency Responder Safety:** Accessible fire maps and data help emergency responders and the public understand the spatial context of fires, improving situational awareness and safety.
- **Disaster Mitigation and Response:** FIRMS assists in the overall effort to mitigate natural disasters and improve response capabilities.





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DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT APPLICATION SYSTEM WITH SITA

- Real-time incident logging and tracking enables faster decision-making and a common operating picture across fire and disaster management services.
- Centralized information sharing improves inter-agency coordination, resource deployment, and incident command efficiency.
- Digital records ensure reliable incident data, supporting compliance, audits, post-incident reviews, and evidence-based planning.
- Reduces paperwork, duplication, and delays associated with manual reporting, allowing responders to focus on core response activities.
- Historical data analysis supports trend identification, risk profiling, prevention strategies, and improved preparedness.
- Clear activity logs strengthen governance, performance monitoring, and stakeholder confidence.

ALFRED NZO DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY PARTNERSHIPS

UNIVERSITY OF FREE STATE

- Alfred Nzo District Municipality appointed the University of Free State (UFS) to conduct the District Wide Scientific Risk Assessment.

OLD MUTUAL FOUNDATION

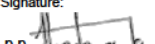
- Old mutual appointed Disaster Management Solutions (DMS) to conduct a training; Introducing Disaster Management to Councillors.
- Old Mutual appointed the University of Free State to develop contingency Plans for the two flagged hazards in the risk assessment- Fires and Floods.
- Old Mutual has procured fire equipment in a form of x3 skid unit fire pumps for the response vehicles that was procured in 2024/25

SANTAM

- Through the SANTAM partnership, The University of Stellenbosch has trained Disaster Management Practitioners (District and Local) as well as Fire and Rescue services in conducting Community Based Risk Assessment.
- Disaster Management Practitioners were trained in HAZMAT awareness training.
- In last year's International Day for Disaster Reduction, they donated 250 trees that were planted across the district in trying to mitigate climate change impact.

- The EC-Cogta SACAA operating licence certificate was approved on the 29th September 2025.
- It is a great milestone for the Eastern Cape Cooperative Governance as it is the 1st Department in the Province to obtain an Unmanned Aircraft System Operating Certificate. (UASOC)
- 6 pilots trained and certified in VLOS & BVLOS (Visual line of sight ; Beyond visual line of sight)
- Drones will be deployed for; Search and Rescue missions; Damage assessments during and post disasters; Aerial surveillance for Mountain and veld fires



OPERATING CERTIFICATE		
SACAA.UASOC.CAA/C0001-CAA/SRO/C058		
State of the Operator South Africa		
Issuing Authority SOUTH AFRICAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY		
UASOC SACAA.UASOC.CAA/C0001-CAA/SRO/C058	OPERATOR NAME: Eastern Cape Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs	OPERATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT: Tel: +27 716043160 Fax: N/A Email: philela.mabandla@eccogta.co.za
UASOC Expiry 30/09/2026	Trading name:	
Refer to Attachment (Air Service Licenses) for the list of the Air Service Licenses Refer to applicable Air Service Licences	Operator physical address: PROVINCIAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE YELLOW WOODS ROAD EASTERN CAPE Tel: +27 716043160 Fax: N/A Email: philela.mabandla@eccogta.co.za	
The above holder of this certificate has been authorised to operate air service(s) in terms of the the above license(s) held in accordance with- *the attached operations specifications; *the provisions of Part 101 of the Civil Aviation Regulations of 2011;		
Date of issue: 29/09/2025	Signature: p.p.  Dean Khumalo Executive Aviation Safety Operations	
Issued at: Bylsbridge Office Park		

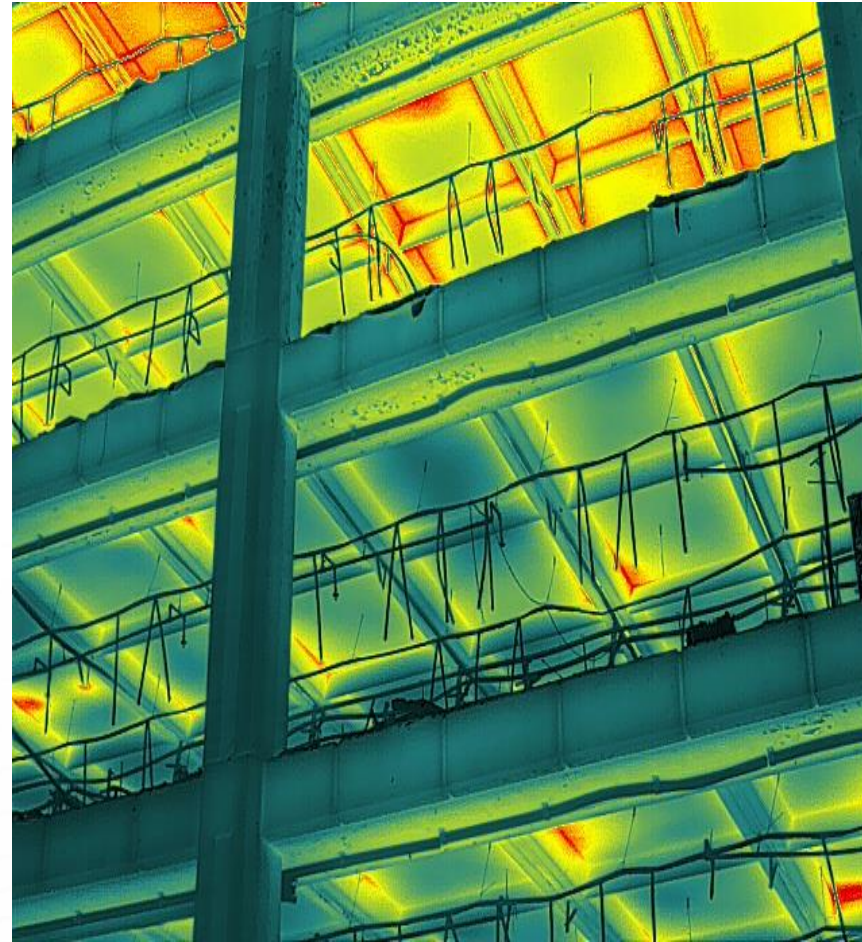
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Revision: 0

CA 101-C-05

13 December 2024

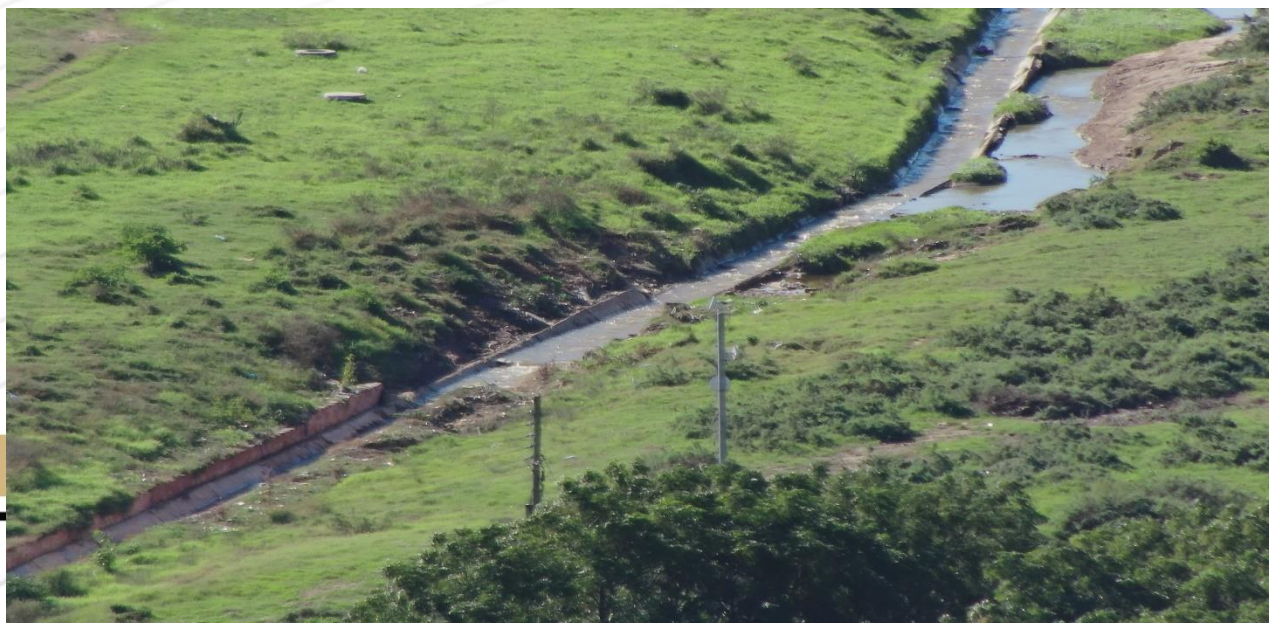
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Botha Sigeau building fire in Mthatha March 2026



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Nelson Mandela Bay Metro floods May 2026



Multi sectoral USAR - response – Mthatha June 2025 floods

The June 2025 floods in Mthatha caused severe disruption, resulting in displacement, fatalities, extensive infrastructure damage, and significant loss of life and livelihoods. Frontline responders operated under hazardous and rapidly evolving conditions to deliver lifesaving rescue, emergency care, and humanitarian assistance. In response, a multi-disciplinary team drawn from government and non-government sectors was mobilised to conduct coordinated search, rescue, and recovery operations for survivors and victims

- DOH- Local EMS Search & Rescue supported by teams from (Limpopo, FS and NW).
- The Forensics & Pathology Services Unit.
- SAPS K9 Unit, Airwing, Mounted Unit
- SANDF Airwing
- OR Tambo Fire & Rescue Unit
- KSD Fire services & Law Enforcement
- Mthatha Provincial Traffic
- Al-Imdaad Foundation (deployed a specialist response team experienced in flood rescues)
- Gift of the Givers (provided logistics support, food parcels, water and search rescue volunteers.
- Cape Peninsula University of Technology through Gift of the Givers deployed members to support search and rescue
- Accord Healthcare in Gauteng in partnership with Gift of the Givers
- KwaZulu-Natal Search and Rescue Unit – brought in flood-seasoned technicians and divers.



EC-PDMC is currently engaging in discussions to establish formal partnerships with;

- Al Imdaad foundation
- Supporting fire services South Africa (SFS-SA)
- Rescue SA
- EMS Rescue
- SAPS search & rescue

Supporting fire services South Africa (SFS-SA)

- Incident Command System Training of 30 individuals x 3 to run during 2026/27
- Donation of foam (wildland and industrial)
- Training of 15 senior fire officials in fire risk assessment training proposed dates are **17th – 21st August 2026**
- Training of 15 senior fire officials in SANS 10090 -fire plans and safety conducted through
- Fire hydrant maintenance in the Nelson Mandela Bay metro



THANK YOU; DANKIE; ENKOSI

