

# CENTRAL KAROO

## DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY



### SECTION:

## MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES

### WATER QUALITY MONITORING & MANAGEMENT



The Section aims to create an environment supportive of good health and minimize those factors detrimental to our health in the Central Karoo district

The Section is focused on the needs and expectations of our communities in the Central Karoo. We seek a good relationship between the municipality and its inhabitants, with a collective responsibility for the environment to ensure that all communities will live in an environment that is beneficial to their health

## OUR FUNCTION

The National Health Act, 2003 (Act 61 of 2003) defines Municipal Health Services as Environmental Health. In terms of Section 1 of the Act Municipal Health Services are defined as:

- **Water Quality Monitoring;**
- Waste Management and Monitoring;
- Food Control;
- Environmental Pollution Control;
- Health Surveillance of Premises;
- Supervision and Prevention of Communicable Diseases;
- Vector Control;
- Safe handling of Chemical Substances; and
- Management of Human Remains.

The Air Quality Management & Integrated Waste Management functions are also performed by the Section Municipal Health.

EHP's act as public arbiters of EH standards, maintaining close contact with the communities they serve. We act as advisers, educators, consultants, managers and enforcement officers (enforcing health policies), ensuring people are able to live, work & play in safe, healthy environments

## STAFF & AREA OF SERVICE DELIVERY

EHP's are employed at our Head Office in Beaufort West as well as our Prince Albert & Laingsburg Offices

Services are rendered in ten (10) communities in the Central Karoo Region, namely Murraysburg, Beaufort West, Nelspoort, Merweville, Prince Albert, Leeu-Gamka, Klaarstroom, Prince Albert Road, Laingsburg & Matjiesfontein, as well as in the rural areas of the Beaufort West, Prince Albert & Laingsburg Districts.

## DID YOU KNOW...

Access to safe drinking water is a basic human right and essential to people's health. Safe drinking water that complies with the South African National Standard (SANS) 241 Drinking Water Specification does not pose a significant risk to health over a lifetime of consumption, including different sensitivities that may occur between life stages (babies and infants, the immunocompromised and the elderly).

Improving access to safe drinking water can thus result in tangible benefits to public health and every effort should be made to achieve a drinking water quality that complies with national safety standards.

Water of the quality that is unsafe may pose serious health risks to public health, and those at greatest risk of waterborne diseases are children under the age of five (5) years, the elderly, those that are immune compromised and those exposed to unsanitary living conditions.

## WATER SOURCES AND THEIR ASSOCIATED HEALTH RISKS

Residents of the Central Karoo are reliant on surface and groundwater sources.

The most important potential consequence of a loss of water quality integrity is health problems caused by substances in the water.

Groundwater coming from non-polluted locations is safe for domestic usage - to consume, prepare food, do laundry, take a bath and water your garden.

Authorities and those using "private water" however need to ensure that the chemical, microbes and physical properties of the water are suitable for everyday usage. It is also crucial to take into consideration all possible causes of pollution when picking out the best spot to drill a borehole.

## **WATER SERVICES AUTHORITY / WATER SERVICES PROVIDER (WSA/WSP) IN THE DISTRICT**

The Beaufort West, Prince Albert and Laingsburg municipalities have the executive authority to provide water services within its area of jurisdiction in terms of the Municipal Structures Act 118 of 1998.

These Municipalities are responsible for the operation and maintenance of all the water infrastructure in their respective communities.

## **WATER QUALITY**

The South African Water Services Act prescribes compulsory national standards for the quality of potable water.

This act requires every water supplier to have a water safety plan and a water quality monitoring programme to ensure water quality standards are complied with. Minimum water quality standards are specified in SANS 241 – Drinking water.

The SANS 241 Drinking Water Specification is the reference on acceptable limits for drinking water quality parameters and provides guideline levels for a range of water quality characteristics.

The bacteriological quality of water is of a relatively high standard in the Central Karoo District.

Groundwater in the Central Karoo district varies in chemical composition, depending on the local geology and flow conditions, but is generally of good quality.

The EHPs of the Central Karoo District Municipality also monitors water quality, and provide Bi-annual Water Quality Evaluation Reports to all WSA's in the district.

These evaluation reports aim to:

- Serve as a source of information to the relevant WSA.
- Promote safe access to safe potable water.
- Promote continuous effective water quality management in the region.

**High quality water is more than the dream of the conservationists; more than a political slogan; high quality water, in the right quantity at the right place at the right time, is essential to health, recreation, and economic growth - Edmund Muskie**

## **10 TIPS ON HOW TO SAVE WATER**

1. Re-use the final rinse water from washing machines for the next wash cycle.
2. Flush toilets only when necessary.
3. Monitor water meters for high consumption and possible water leaks.
4. Reduce shower times. (Limit to 90 seconds)
5. Confine watering of gardens to before 10:00 or after 16:00.
6. Perform a water audit at home.
7. Collect rainwater for re-using in the garden or washing the car.
8. Use a broom instead of a hosepipe when cleaning driveways or patios.
9. Insulate hot water pipes so that not too much water is wasted when waiting for water to get hot.
10. No filling of swimming Pools!



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