

Knysna blaze under control



Firefighters battle fires near houses in Buffalo Bay near Knysna on Friday. Police are investigating after a man, 63, from Hornlee was found burnt to death. /ESA ALEXANDER

More firefighters join in efforts to battle blaze

By **Ernest Mabuza**

Raging fires in Knysna, Western Cape, claimed the life of a sixth person on Saturday when a 63-year-old man died after being trapped.

Knysna police have opened an inquest docket for further investigation following the death of John Blaauw from Hornlee at about 3pm.

Captain Malcolm Pojie said the preliminary investigation suggested Blaauw was a driver who was transporting workers near Windheuwel, Concordia, when they were trapped by the raging fire.

"In an attempt to flee the fire, he got engulfed in it and subsequently died due to extensive degree of burning wounds sustained," Pojie said.

He said postmortems would be conducted on the bodies of the six victims to determine the exact cause of death.

The municipality said yesterday the fires were largely contained. It said there were two priority areas to deal with – one of which is Concordia, where the fire was currently burning towards

the informal settlement.

The municipality said tankers were being deployed to this area.

Another is Sedgefield, where firefighters started a "back-burn" that would reduce the risk of fires on the N2 towards Goukamma.

The municipality also said there was no need to evacuate anyone yesterday morning.

There were 300 additional firefighters from Working on Fire, who arrived on Thursday to assist in fighting the fires in Knysna.

There were also teams from Cape Town and the surrounding towns.

Another team of firefighters from Potchefstroom would arrive in George, about 60km west of Knysna, which also experienced fires, Working on Fire said.

Earlier, James-Brent Styan, spokesman for Western Cape local government MEC Anton Bredell, said aircraft – both water-bombing choppers and fixed-wing spotter planes – were airborne shortly before 9am as the fog and smog lifted and cooler weather moved in over the Eden district.

"With wind speeds dropping, conditions are improving for aerial support," he said. "The wide range of firefighting agencies were dispatched from the Incident Command Centre in the

Knysna Municipality, working closely with the Eden District Disaster Management Centre."

Styan said that divisions had held the line on Saturday night – holding the flames back – to protect Rheenendal village and Wit Lokasie settlement.

"Confirmed fatalities at this stage for the Eden District is six, including one firefighter. Fire commanders confirmed that no losses had been suffered in Buffalo Bay, and some fires yesterday were deliberate back-burns to protect the town from runaway flames."

Drafting of the New Outdoor Advertising By-Laws

The City of Johannesburg is calling on all outdoor advertising industry players and the general public to participate in making inputs to the drafting of Outdoor Advertising by-laws to be later consolidated for the finalization of the new by-law.

The by-law review process spearheaded by the City of Johannesburg (Building Development Management) is centred on an open public participation process which will afford all interested and affected parties to give their input towards the drafting of the final by-law. Residents are therefore encouraged to take an active part in this public participation process as detailed herein.

The below-stated public consultations will be convened in all of the City's seven (7) Regions to afford Joburg residents the opportunity to give their inputs. It is within this process that residents are encouraged to lead the changes they want to see in the outdoor advertising by-laws by taking part in the public consultation meetings in their respective areas.

Outdoor Advertising by-law consultation meetings:

Region	Area	Venue	Date
A	Rabie Ridge	Rabie Ridge Community Hall	12 June
B	Fairlands	Berario Community Hall	13 June
C	Roodeport	Davidson Community Hall	14 June
D	Jabulani	Jabulani Council Chamber	19 June
E	Sandringham	Jabula Recreation Centre	20 June
F	Braamfontein	Theatre A, Metro Centre	21 June
G	Lenasia	Lenasia Civic Centre	22 June

All consultations will take place between 08h00 and 11h30 on the date outlined in the table above.



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