



a world class African city

City of Johannesburg

Group Communication and Marketing Department

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www.joburg.org.za

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Spring into Action: Preventing Weather Related Incidents Together

As Johannesburg welcomes the first rains of Spring, the city calls on all residents, businesses, schools and community organisations to play their part in keeping Joburg safe, clean and reporting weather-related incidents.

While the rains bring much-needed relief and greener surroundings, they also wash litter, sand, rubble, and garden waste into stormwater drains, rivers, and sewer systems. This often results in blocked drains, sewer overflows, localized flooding, road damage, and water pollution that can affect entire communities.

Executive Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Dada Morero says, “As the Spring rains return, I ask every resident to look after the places we call home. Every effort made by you to sweep and remove debris away from drains, report blockages, leaks and fallen trees or participating in neighbourhood cleanups including helping people in distress, are little actions with a huge impact on keeping our city clean and safe”.

Residents are encouraged to:

- Clear litter, leaves, and debris from their properties and surrounding areas after rainfall.
- Dispose of waste responsibly and avoid dumping rubbish into stormwater drains, streams, or open spaces.
- Refrain from disposing of and/or flushing foreign objects into sewage systems (toilets and domestic drains): items such as sanitary products, wipes, toys, or other solid materials can get lodged in sewer pipes, leading to blockages. In kitchen drains, the build-up of grease and fat over time can restrict the flow of sewage, leading to blockages.
- Report blocked drains, sewer spillages, flooded roads, and damaged infrastructure to the relevant City entities.
- Keep children away from stagnant water, flooded areas, rivers, dams, and open stormwater channels where the risk of drowning and waterborne diseases increases significantly.
- Join community clean-up initiatives that help prevent flooding and environmental pollution.

How City Departments Are Working Together

The City's entities and departments are on the ground and ready to respond during the rainy season:

Joburg Water is responsible for maintaining water and sewer infrastructure, attending to bursts and leaks, ensuring the continued provision of safe and reliable drinking water and sanitation services to residents.

Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) monitors and maintains the City's road infrastructure, stormwater systems, bridges, culverts, and drainage networks to reduce flooding risks and keep roads safe and accessible. In the event of severe weather, regional standby teams are in place to monitor and respond to flooded areas, prioritising hazards based on their severity and the availability of resources.

The following preparedness measures have been put in place for the 2026 rain season:

- **Regional Standby Teams:** Each region has been allocated a dedicated standby team, equipped with jetvac machines and excavators, ready to assist with rapid road clearing and debris removal.
- **Kerb Inlet Cleaning:** Across all regions, teams are actively cleaning blocked kerb inlets with jetvacs to ensure maximum water runoff.
- **Accelerated Field Services:** Field Services teams are assisting with skoffeling and cleaning kerb inlet mouths to improve water flow into the road gutter network.
- **Bridge Maintenance:** Regional teams will undertake desilting (the removal of suspended silt) and clear rubble from bridges, in strict adherence to environmental law requirements.

City Power- Rainy and colder weather may increase electricity demand and affect restoration work due to unsafe or difficult site conditions. Customers are encouraged to reduce unnecessary electricity use, while City Power teams continue attending to outages as safely and quickly as conditions allow.

Public Safety works to protect communities by coordinating emergency responses, managing traffic incidents, enforcing public safety regulations, and assistance during severe weather events. The city's **Disaster Management Centre** has finalised its disaster risk reduction and preparedness plans for the 2026 summer campaign.

Environment and Infrastructure Services focuses on protecting the City's natural environment by monitoring pollution, maintaining river systems and wetlands, promoting environmental awareness, and supporting clean and healthy communities.

Pikitup plays a critical role in collecting waste, removing illegal dumping, and keeping public spaces clean to prevent litter from entering stormwater systems and causing blockages.

A Shared Responsibility

The city can only succeed with the support of its residents. Every plastic bag picked up, every drain kept clear, and every incident reported contributes to a cleaner safer Johannesburg.

“Let's keep Johannesburg flowing in the right direction this rainy season to protect lives and property”, says Mayor Morero.

Ends

To report emergencies call: 011 375 5911

Johannesburg Water: blocked drains and sewer spillages: 010 061 4470 or 086 056 2874 or fault@jwater.co.za.

City Power call: 011 490 7484 or 0800 202 925

Johannesburg Road Agency: call

Region	Areas	Contact Details
Region A (Midrand Depot)	Midrand, Ivory Park, Diepsloot, Fourways	060 960 0764
Region B (Strydom Park/Waterval)	Rosebank, Northcliff, Newlands, Melville, Emmarentia	082 556 1307
Region C (Florida Depot)	Northgate, Roodepoort, Bram Fischerville, Florida	082 555 2316
Region D (Dosbonville Depot)	Greater Soweto areas	060 960 0779
Region E (Zandfontein and Norwood)	Sandton, Alexandra, Houghton, Wynberg	083 499 7939 060 9600 760
Region F (Benrose Depot)	Inner City, Hillbrow, Johannesburg South	060 960 0763
Region G (Avalon Depot)	Eldorado Park, Ennerdale, Lenasia, Orange Farm	060 960 0771

Issued by the City of Johannesburg. For media queries email mediaqueries@joburg.org.za