

## *The need to prepare is real.*

Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects, both to people and property.

- If a disaster occurs in your community, local government and disaster-relief organizations will try to help you, but you need to be ready as well. Local responders may not be able to reach you immediately, or they may need to focus their efforts elsewhere.
- You should know how to respond to severe weather or any disaster that could occur in your area – wildfires, extreme cold or flooding. You should also be ready to be self-sufficient for at least three days. This may mean providing for your own shelter, first aid, food, water, and sanitation.

## *Everybody should get involved.*

Every citizen in this country has a role to play in disaster management. Think of disaster management as a pyramid with you, the citizen, forming the base of the structure. At this level, you have a responsibility to protect yourself and your family by knowing what to do before, during, and after an event. Some examples of what you can do follow:

### **Before**

- Know the risks and danger signs.
- If you can afford it, purchase insurance
- Develop plans for what to do.
- Assemble a disaster supplies kit.
- Volunteer to help others.

### **During**

- Put your plan into action.
- Help others.
- Follow the advice and guidance of officials in charge of the event.

### **After**

- Repair damaged property.
- Take steps to prevent or reduce future loss.



agriculture  
& rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**Deputy Manager:**  
Agricultural Risk & Disaster  
Management, P. H Mans  
Department of Agriculture & Rural Development

Private Bag X9059, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
Tel: 033 355 9639  
Fax: 033 355 9401  
Email: [petrus.mans@kzndard.gov.za](mailto:petrus.mans@kzndard.gov.za)  
WEBSITE: [www.kzndard.gov.za](http://www.kzndard.gov.za)

**AGRICULTURAL RISK AND DISASTER  
MANAGEMENT: PREPAREDNESS SUBSECTION**

## Overview

The promulgation of the Disaster Management Act 2002 (Act No.57 of 2002) led to the formation of the Agricultural Risk and Disaster Management (ARDM) component within the KZN Department of Agriculture & Environmental Affairs.

The ARDM component is responsible for agricultural risk and disaster management throughout the province of KwaZulu-Natal, covering an area of 9 million hectares with 6 million dwellers on agricultural land, of which 120 000 are farmers.

The thrust of disaster management is to establish a process and structure for the coordinated and effective delivery of assistance, and to address the consequences of major disasters declared in the province under the appropriate national legislation.

## Preparedness

The Preparedness sub-section

is tasked with the following responsibilities:

- To design, facilitate and assist with training and awareness programmes on disaster management
- To develop & maintain agricultural risk & disaster management policies and procedures
- To regulate, negotiate & maintain service level agreements
- To research, develop & maintain a database of agricultural disasters
- To develop & maintain agricultural risk & disaster management committees, structures and communication networks
- To establish a departmental disaster management centre (office accommodation and facilities)
- To establish a departmental disaster management advisory forum
- To establish a departmental disaster management secretariat
- To establish a departmental management communication network (emergency capabilities co-ordination and formal consultative mechanism)
- To create & document a Disaster Declaration Process, including disaster reduction projects, programmes and initiatives
- To prepare guidelines for Departmental Disaster Management, in terms of
  - Field operation guides
  - Standards for relief
- To negotiate agreements with relevant stakeholders in order to prepare a protocol regarding roles and responsibilities (primary and secondary)
- To facilitate the establishment of institutional arrangements (establishment, procurement procedures), in order to
  - fast track decisions and minimize red tape
  - establish standard operating protocols (trigger indicators)
  - develop responsibilities and protocols for media liaison
- To create mechanisms and structures for sharing knowledge and best practices, this will include best practices guides and case studies
- To roll out Departmental Disaster Management Awareness, through planning the following initiatives
  - public awareness & roadshows
  - education
  - training
- compiling learning material and practical assignments
- assessing & evaluating learners and programmes
- scheduling & presenting courses
- compiling reports and statistics on training
  - research
- To create a Disaster Management Plan, through
  - Conducting readiness assessments
  - Forming a Disaster Management Committees

- Developing evaluation indices
- Obtaining endorsements from "Champions"
- Implementing a Pilot Programme
- Funding an outside evaluator
- Developing the plan
- Compiling Memoranda of Understanding with role players

## Preparedness at home: *what should you do?*

### ***There are real benefits to being prepared.***

- Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters. Communities, families, and individuals should know what to do in the event of a fire and where to seek shelter during extreme weather events.
- People also can reduce the impact of disasters (flood proofing, elevating a home or moving a home out of harm's way) and sometimes avoid the danger completely.