

## OUTCOME

- Improved public preparedness
- Improved decision making
- Better use of land
- Better response planning
- Better disaster planning and prevention



agriculture  
& rural development

Department:  
Agriculture and Rural Development  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



## WHY EARLY WARNING?

Early warning is defined as the issuing of accurate and timely information from an identified and trusted source that is aimed at alerting the individuals at risk, thereby to avoid or to minimise the impact of a given natural hazard. An effective early warning system requires the development and strengthening of institutions, mechanisms and capacities at all levels, particularly at community level so as to be able to systematically contribute to building resilience to hazards.

## EARLY WARNING

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Agricultural Risk and Disaster Management:  
Agricultural Meteorologist: R.D. Chapman  
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Private Bag X9059, Pietermaritzburg, 3200  
Telephone: 033-343 8142  
Fax: 033-355 9401  
E-mail: Douglas.Chapman@kzndard.gov.za  
Website: www.kzndard.gov.za

## DISASTER CAUSING HAZARDS ABOUT WHICH THE COMMUNITIES HAVE TO BE WARNED

- Fires
- Floods
- Drought
- Tornados
- Epidemics
- Hazardous Materials
- Environmental Degradation

## RISKS POSED BY THE HAZARDS THAT HAVE TO BE MITIGATED OR AVOIDED BY MEANS OF EARLY WARNINGS

- Economic Losses / Businesses Close Down
- Damaged Roads and Bridges
- Disruption of Basic Services
- Environmental Damage
- Loss of Employment
- Power Breakdowns
- Disease / Cholera
- Property Damage
- Social Disruption
- Death / Injuries

## OBJECTIVES OF THE EARLY WARNING PROGRAMME

- Establishing an alarm or warning system
- Risk monitoring system / disaster tracking
- Prediction/forecast
- Maintain a database on information collected
- Risk profiles & event/incident mapping
- Advice
- Hazard analysis

## OUTPUT OF THE EARLY WARNING PROGRAMME

- Hazard typing
- Identification of vulnerable areas and communities
- Mapping of the above

## METHODOLOGY USED

- Assessments by field observations (surveying)
- Consultation
- Remote sensing
- Collation and analysis of reports
- Hazard mapping
- Collection of historical data
- Monitoring systems

