



FOR PSA MEMBERS: **FREE STATE**

05-03-2025

Feedback: OHS matters - Free State

During recent visits by the PSA to various departments and buildings across the Free State, it became evident that occupational health and safety (OHS) is not being adequately addressed. Observations by the PSA have highlighted several critical issues:

- **Lack of functioning OHS committees:** Many departments do not have active OHS committees in place. These committees are essential for ensuring workplace safety and compliance with OHS regulations.
- **Absence of water contingency plans:** There is a noticeable lack of contingency plans for water-related issues. This is a significant concern, as water disruptions can severely impact workplace safety and operations.
- **Inadequate fire safety measures:** The PSA discovered that fire evacuation plans, practice drills, fire alarms, and fire extinguishers are not being properly maintained or serviced. Additionally, employees are not receiving the necessary training on how to use fire extinguishers.

PSA recommendations

To address these issues, the PSA has raised these issues in Free State Chambers and Forums and recommends the following actions:

- **Development of water contingency plans:** All departments should develop and implement comprehensive water contingency plans to ensure preparedness for any water-related emergencies.
- **Report on OHS Committees:** The PSA requests that each department provides a detailed report on the status and functionality of their OHS committees. This report should include information on committee activities, meetings, and any challenges faced.
- **Fire safety training and maintenance:** Departments should submit a detailed report on their fire safety training plans. This report should outline the training provided to employees, the frequency of fire drills, and the maintenance schedule for fire safety equipment.

By addressing these critical areas, the PSA can work together with employers to create a safer and more compliant workplace for employees. The PSA is committed to supporting departments in their efforts to improve OHS standards and ensure the well-being of all employees.

For any enquiries or assistance, please contact the PSA Provincial Office in Bloemfontein on (051) 403 1300 / 051 403 1315 / psa.bloem@psa.co.za.

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