

NEW TRENDS ON THE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

TRANSNET



pipelines

 **FUELS INDUSTRY**
Association of South Africa

2024



PURPOSE OF FIRE BRIGADE SERVICES

Firefighting services in terms of Schedule 4, Part B of the South African Constitution is the responsibility of local government with national and provincial oversight. The Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 (Act No. 99 of 1987) (FBSA) is the primary piece of legislation regulating fire services and provides for the establishment, maintenance, employment, co-ordination and standardisation of fire brigade services. In terms of the FBSA, local authorities are allowed to establish and maintain a fire brigade service for the following purpose:

- Preventing the outbreak or spread of a fire;
- Fighting or extinguishing a fire;
- The protection of life or property against a fire or other threatening danger;
- The rescue of life or property from a fire or other danger;
- **Subject to the provisions of the Health Act, 1977 (Act No. 63 of 1977), the rendering of an ambulance service as an integral part of the fire brigade service; or**
- The performance of any other function connected with any of the matters referred to in paragraphs (a) to (e).



SALGA- FIRE SERVICES

- Develop Regulations in terms of the FBSA;
- Provide secretariat support to the Fire Brigade Board;

- Coordinate fire service activities nationally;
- Establish national fire services institutional structures;
- Provide targeted support and guidance to national, provincial, municipal and designated fire services structures;
- Develop and review of regulatory frameworks for the fire services;**
- Serves as primary point of contact to United Nations (UN) International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG);
- Develop and support implementation of national fire safety and prevention strategies/ frameworks;
- Establish partnerships with key role players;
- Establish mechanisms for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national standards;**
- Perform fire services capacity-building related processes and establish a fire services information management system.**



THE NEW NORMAL

Fire Departments Face Changing And Challenging Trends In The 'New Normal'

- Training cost and institutional framework, access and institutions competencies. Skill depreciation from Traditional to modern generation.
- Greater emphasis on preparedness. (Industry appreciation)
- More awareness of possible exposure threats.
- Persistent staffing shortages and lack of equipment. (Local Fire Services Negatively Impacted by Political Pressures and Lack of Funding)
- Larger and more destructive wildfires.
- The new emphasis on diversity and inclusion.
- Technology and imaging products (Very few role players)
- Emphasis on the Stakeholder collaborations



THE NEW FUTURE

Fire Departments Face Changing And Challenging Trends In The ‘New Future’

- More online and “hybrid” training practices evolved by necessity during the pandemic with a rise in online learning. (Chief Fire Officers must evaluate AI options vs traditional fire fighting methods)
- Previously projected incidents (materializing presently)
- More awareness of possible exposure threats, Global Warming Change in the Paradigm.
- Persistent staffing shortages, Private Sector Capacity Building and Imaging Private Companies.
- Larger and more destructive wildfires, Build skills and resilience abilities.
- Greater need to protect personnel. (Security Risk, Crime impact)
- The new emphasis on diversity and inclusion
- Technology and imaging products (New imaging service providers and manufactures, Stringent consideration to various options and application)
- Frequent disasters (Both Natural and Man made) and increased major incidents resulting into significant loss of life’s.
- Emphasis Wellness to personnel and support
- Building materials and new product, requiring improved fire official’s knowledge capacity
- Cost of emergency response vehicles and equipment in the modern life and technological advancement, frequent changes (Maintenance, technological developments, skills availability)
- Legislative changes: Global influence- Fire Fighting foam as an example. Political landscape.
- Labor landscape



FIRE CHIEFS CHANGE OF MINDSET

- Appreciation that change and technology is here. Skills development to technology: Thrones, robots etc
- Innovation and risk mitigation is key, considering current economic landscape.
- Research and development in learning to be relevant.
- Traditional fire fighting techniques, reconstruction.
- Changes in the Career path and development criteria



CONCLUSION

In recent years, civil engineers and firefighters have adopted new methods to put out fires and save lives. Firefighting techniques break down into a few categories: **Preemptive, suppressive, and survival**. Preemptive technologies work to prevent a fire before they begin.



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Thank You

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