



23 March 2018

TRAFFIC ADVISORY: HEAVY RAINS DAMAGE JOBURG BRIDGES

Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) is calling on all road users to exercise caution and patience when travelling across bridges. Heavy rain has flooded bridges across the city. The South African Weather Services has advised on that the rain will continue into the weekend.

A list of bridges that have been affected by the heavy rain:-

- Buccleuch Street Bridge is currently closed to traffic
- Buccleuch Avenue Bridge
- Dorothy Nyembe pedestrian Bridge has collapsed in Region D (Soweto Dobsonville). The Bridge had been closed.
- 12th Avenue Bridge,
- Canterbury Bridge badly affected. The bridge will be closed today.
- Belgrave Bridge is currently overtopping and the bridge is closed.
- Nancefield Street Bridge in Soweto is currently overtopping
- Mzilikazi Street Bridge is currently overtopping in Soweto
- Canning Street Bridge in Bramley is badly affected
- Third Avenue in Region A, Chartwell Bridge is badly affected and is overtopping,
- 118 Morkel Road Bridge in Lynhurst is badly affected
- Medler Street Bridge in Region C is badly affected
- Seder Street Bridge in Region C is badly affected
- Simmert Street Bridge,
- 2 Witkoppen Bridges (Province has closed the bridges)
- Platina Street Bridge is badly affected
- Pedestrian Bridge connecting 9th St and 10th St, Parkhurst is badly affected
- Robert Broom culvert (close to Robert broom/ Amaryllis int)
- Martinus Smuts Avenue Bridge in Soweto is badly affected

Currently JRA officials are monitoring low level bridges prone to overtopping during heavy downpour. Low-lying bridges at risk have been earmarked for upgrades and will be cordoned off if they pose a risk during heavy flooding.

JRA Depot Managers across the seven regions are regularly updating the JRA Control Room to alert us to major damage and traffic signalling issues. We urge motorists to monitor JRA updates and use alternative routes where required.

JRA is expecting the list to grow larger as the day progresses. The JRA Planning Department will conduct a detailed inspection of all flooded bridges to establish any damage to the structural integrity.

Motorists are urged to obey road signs, traffic signals and especially road closures due to flooded bridges or unsafe driving conditions which are unsafe to traverse. In the event of a flash flood, or where residents are at risk, it is advisable to immediately evacuate the area and seek a place of safety. Residents and road users are encouraged to report all road and storm related emergencies to 0860 562 874/ hotline@jra.org.za / twitter @MyJra or JRA Find&Fix mobile app.

Tips for motorists and residents on how to survive the heavy rains.

Flash Floods

Flash floods occur within few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall. Nearly half of all flash flood deaths are auto related, so never drive or let anyone drive through flood waters! Roads could be washed out under the strong currents. And if your car stalls in just two feet of moving water, the water will have enough force to lift up your car and carry it away!

If a flash flood warning has been issued for your area, act immediately! You may only have seconds before flood waters appear. Read through the list of flood safety rules in this brochure. Adhere to them during a flood warning in order to save your life and that of others.

Pedestrian Safety

- If you are outdoors and flash flood is likely, get to higher ground immediately! You cannot outrun a flash flood.
- Keep out of places that are likely to flood such as ditches or dry stream beds.
- Avoid already flooded areas and high velocity flow areas.
- Never attempt to run across flooding water when the water is above your ankles.
- Do not walk into or near high water.
- Keep children from drainage ditches and open stormwater drains.

Motorist Safety

- NEVER drive into water covering the road. You do not know how deep it is or if the road is washed away.
- Turn around and go the other way!
- Look out for flooding at highway dips, bridges and low areas.
- If the vehicle stalls, leave it immediately and seek higher ground.
- Be cautious, especially at night when visibility is impaired.
- Do not park your vehicle along streams, particularly during threatening conditions

ENDS.

Follow JRA for the latest developments, journey planning tips, alternative routes, and traffic advisory via:

- Website: www.jra.org.za
- Twitter: @MyJra
- Facebook: Johannesburg Roads Agency
- Email hotline@jra.org.za
- JRA Find & Fix mobile app
- JRA A-Z Traffic Calming Guide, visit:
<http://www.jra.org.za/customer-service/traffic-calming-request>

About the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA)

The JRA is a City-owned agency responsible for the maintenance, repair and development of Johannesburg's road network and storm water infrastructure, including bridges and culverts, traffic lights and signage. The organisation is committed to providing quality roads that are accessible, safe and liveable for our communities.

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