



a world class African city



City of Johannesburg

66 Sauer Street

P/Bag X70

Tel +27(0) 11 298 5000

Cnr. Jeppe Str.

Braamfontein

Fax +27(0) 11 298 5178  
[www.joburg.org.za](http://www.joburg.org.za)

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### FLASH FLOODS

Southern Africa is in its flood season. The Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA) is urging road users to be extra cautious and adopt a more preventive approach to flash floods.

Most lives are lost in floods than in any other weather-related event. 80% of flood deaths occur in vehicles, and most of the time drivers take a chance of navigating through flood water and at some stages undermining low lying bridges.

Pedestrians also become victims of being washed away by water when they try to walk through the water or crossing low lying bridges.

The JRA is however doing its best to alleviate flooding. In some areas like Ivory Park projects like conversions of open stormwater drains have started and this is informed by the Joburg 2040 Growth and development Strategy of a liveable City. Coupled with this are educational programs in schools where children are being made aware of the dangers of playing in storm water drains, open dams and water inlets. Also kerb inlets/stormwater drains are cleaned before the rain season.

In practicing safety the following signs should be watched:

- Unusually hard rain over several hours
- Steady substantial rain over several days
- Rains in conjunction with a spring thaw
- Water rising rapidly in streams and rivers

It is advisable to evacuate immediately to a place of safety.

Members of the community are urged to work hand in hand with the JRA by refraining from dumping inside storm water drains and reporting such behaviors to the JRA.

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Matabane, L Brenner, M Simelane, K Mthimunye Company Secretary: Adv. TP  
Bakoko

ENDS

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Issued on behalf of the Johannesburg Roads Agency

Marketing and Communications

For more information contact:

JRA: Marketing and Communications 011 298 5295/5156