



a world class African city



City of Johannesburg  
Johannesburg Roads Agency

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## MEDIA RELEASE

**10 NOVEMBER 2016**  
**For immediate release**

### JRA warning on heavy floods

With further forecast weather warnings of heavy rains and flash flooding in store, **Johannesburg Road Agency (JRA)** is calling on all road users to exercise care and patience when travelling. A number of bridges have been reported flooded or collapsed as a result of yesterday's heavy rain.

What transpired yesterday was an act of Act of God, it was beyond the capacity of JRA stormwater systems. A road is designed for the likelihood of the severity of the storm statistically happening once every five years. The road surface and reserve including the stormwater servitude is designed to act as a channel if the underground system reaches capacity while major system (underground drainage) including crossings through residential properties are designed for storms statistically happening once every 25 years. Joburg City rivers have a 1:50 year and 1:100 year floodlines where buildings cannot be erected below these floodlines as regulated by the Water Act. Unfortunately any severe storm or flash flooding that occurs will result in isolated flooding as the road infrastructure is not designed for these severities. JRA is out assessing the damage to infrastructure, clearing debris, silt and other obstructions to our roads, bridges and stormwater drainage systems.

**Managing Director of JRA, Dr Sean Phillips** said JRA has duly inspected recurring blockages in the areas which are termed as flooding hotspots and we are monitoring low level bridges prone to overtopping during heavy downpour. He emphasised that maintenance to stormwater drains is being carried by JRA on a regular basis. Repairs to damaged stormwater drains and blocked stormwater drains are also prioritised.

### Work is underway to identify damaged infrastructure, which includes

- Witkoppen road damaged
- R55 in Kyalami bridge collapsed
- Linksfield Road, off-ramp and on ramp to N3.

Chairman: J Manche,  
Executive Directors: Dr. S Phillips - Managing Director, G Mbatha CA(SA) - Chief Financial Officer  
Non-Executive Directors: P Govender, A Torres, N Msezane, E Ngomane, L Mashamaite, L Nxumalo, H Mashele.  
Company Secretary: K Mills

Registration No. 2000/028993/07

- Corner Lousie Botha and Houghton driver near Sasol, collapsed wall.
- Siyabusa (Rabie Ridge), flooding due to insufficient stormwater system capacity
- All low lying bridges between Kyalami and Dainfern flooded
- Joburg Zoo wall collapsed next to Jan Smuts.
- M1 South run off from Houghton side to M1 South near AGSA office debris and rocks on the road
- Alexandra John Nhlanhla bridge washed away
- Buccleuch Bridge also washed away

**Mayoral Member Committee for Transport Nonhlanhla Makhuba** said JRA has also developed a Soweto stormwater Masterplan which has been completed. The Soweto stormwater masterplan highlighted areas where stormwater drains needs to be implemented at a cost of R4 billion she said. She also mention that JRA is also developing an inner city stormwater masterplan.

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](mailto:hotline@jra.org.za) / twitter @MyJra or JRA Find&Fix mobile app.

### Flash Floods

Flash floods occur within few minutes or hours of excessive rainfall. This may be caused by a dam failure or a severe and heavy rainstorm. 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.
- If you are in a car during a flood, never drive through flooded roadways! Turn away around and go the other direction.
- Drive with caution when it is raining
- Do not walk into or near high water.
- Keep children from drainage ditches and 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 or pull off to the other side of the road.
- 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.
- Drive slowly.

**ENDS**

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### **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.

**Issued by:**

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