

**7TH NATIONAL FIRE SAFETY AND PREVENTION  
SEMINAR, 10- 13 MARCH 2020, BLOEMFONTEIN,  
MANGAUNG METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, FREE  
STATE PROVINCE**



**THEME:**  
***MODERNISING THE FIRE SERVICES TO ENHANCE ITS  
CONTRIBUTION IN BUILDING A DISASTER RESILIENT SOUTH  
AFRICA***

**1. BACKGROUND**

South Africa faces a complex fire problem which is compounded by increasing urbanisation which is accompanied by an exponential increase in the number of informal settlements, increasing wildland urban interface, lack of capacity by some municipalities to name but a few. Consequently, the number of lives lost and injuries sustained due to fires is alarming. In economic terms, the Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa (FPASA) noted that in 2016, the recorded financial fire losses incurred by the country exceeded R3.144 billion. Taking into account that this figure reflects fires attended to by Fire Services and reported to the FPASA while excluding to a large extent uninsured losses, and fires occurring in areas where no professional fire services exist, it becomes evident that the cost of fires to our country's economy are significant and pervasive. Thus, it is critical that all role players must work collaboratively with a view to reduce fire risks and losses in the country. It is against this background that the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) hosts a Fire Safety and Prevention Seminar annually to galvanise all role players to contribute to the fire risk reduction agenda.

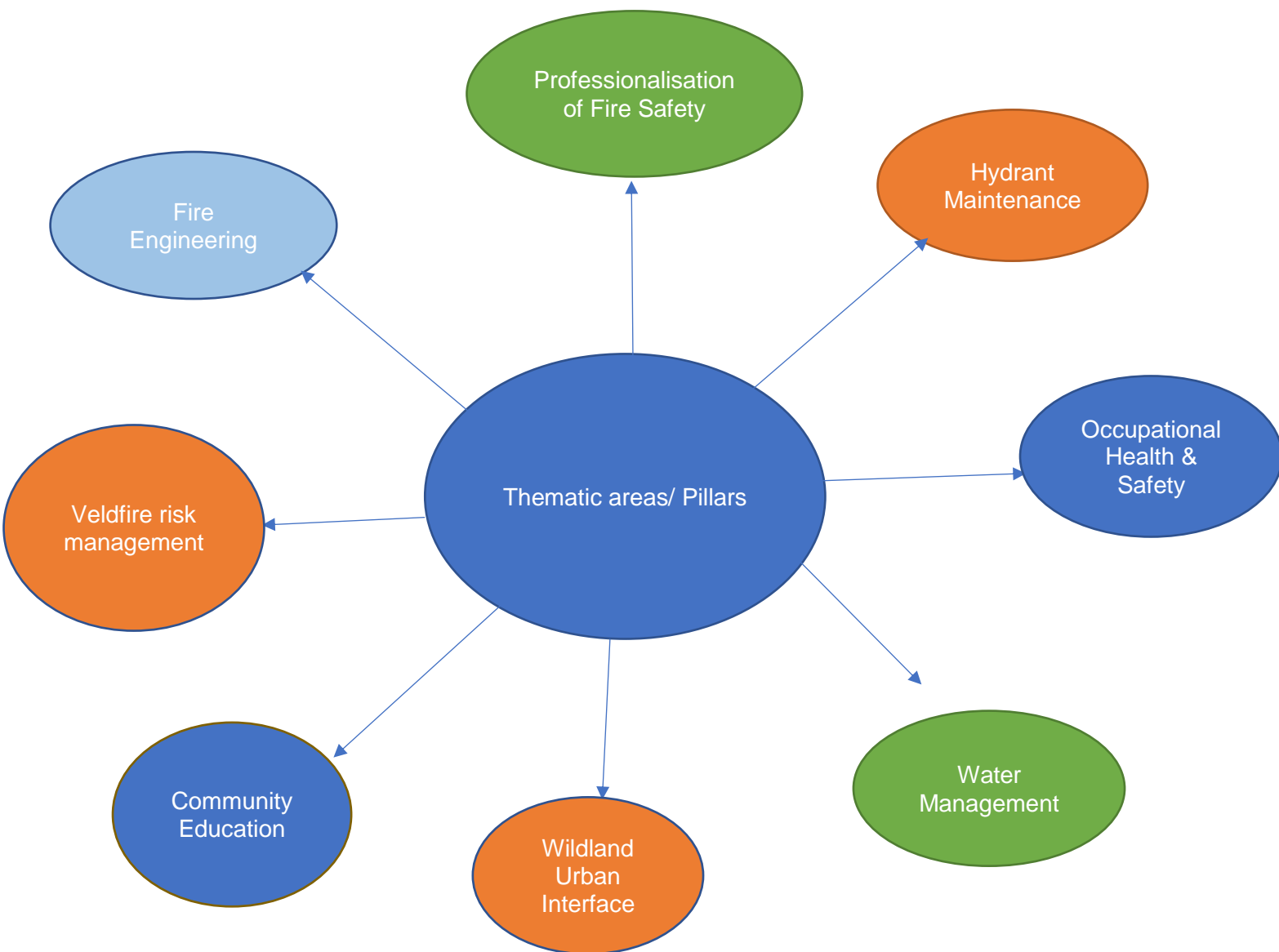
**2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE**

The Fire Safety and Prevention Seminar provides a platform for key role players in the fire sector to discuss progress, challenges, proposed solutions and recommendations towards reducing fire risks and losses in the country. **To this end, the seminar is a strategic platform meant to provide a platform for interactive dialogue amongst fire safety and prevention practitioners and professionals in order to contribute to the national fire risk reduction agenda.** It therefore does not purport to assume the form of the national disaster management and fire services multi-sectoral forum

but only a platform to galvanised Fire Safety and Prevention Practitioners towards a well-coordinated programme of fire risk reduction. The Fire Safety Seminar outcomes will enable the Department to address issues that are pertinent to the sector.

### 3. THEMATIC AREAS

A number of thematic areas have been identified for discussion at the 7th Annual Seminar. While the Seminar will address a number of topical issues related to fire safety and prevention, Figure 1 below depicts the key thematic areas that will be covered:



#### **4. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The primary outcome from this summit is to galvanise Fire Safety and Prevention Practitioners to implement the National Fire Safety Strategy in order to reduce fire risks and losses.

#### **5. DURATION**

The event is planned to take place for four days wherein day one will be for specialised training while day two will be the formal seminar activities. Day three will be utilised for fire safety inspections of identified high-risk facilities including hospitals, boarding schools, clinics, universities, shopping centres etc, by all participating Fire Safety and Prevention Officers. Inspection teams will provide feedback and recommendations on measures to improve compliance of inspected buildings on the last day of the seminar i.e. day four.

#### **6. PARTICIPANTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

Participation is open to all who have a professional interest in the various thematic areas of the seminar, and may include:

- Fire Safety and Prevention officers;
- Fire Services Practitioners;
- Engineers;
- Veldfire Managers;
- Media officials;
- Fire risk assessors;
- Students and researchers; and
- Officials involved in transportation of Dangerous Goods.

## 7. DRAFT PROGRAMME

The proposed is as outlined in the table below:

### 1.1. Day 1: 10 March 2020

NO	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES
1	Provision of specialised fire safety training to all participants (ICS)	NDMC with support from the University of Free State	Improved knowledge on ICS methodology

### 1.2. Day 2: 11 March 2020

NO	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES
1	Progress with implementation of National Fire Safety and Prevention Strategy	NDMC	Progress, challenges and opportunities on implementation of national fire safety strategy outlined
2	Fire Safety perspectives in Free State	FS PDMC	Experiences of Mangaung Metropolitan, Free State Provinces on fire safety outlined
3	Water Management	University of Free State	Water issues relevant to the Fire Services are addressed
4	Veldfire risk management	Department of Environmental Affairs, Forestry & Fisheries	Role of landowners and Fire Protection Associations (FPAs) outlined
5	Role of Building Control Officer in Fire Safety	Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality	Interface between fire safety and building control services outlined
6	Fire Hydrant Maintenance	Hollard Insurance / Ekurhuleni	Importance of fire hydrant maintenance outlined
7	Community Fire Risk Reduction	NDMC	Importance of community education outlined

### 1.3. Day 3: 12 March 2020

NO	ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY	OUTCOMES
1	Visits to identified facilities for Fire safety code enforcement	All Fire Safety Officer participating in the Seminar	Fire safety enhanced through identification of non-compliance in high risk facilities
2	Preparations of inspection reports by fire safety officers	All Fire Safety Officer participating in the Seminar	Concrete recommendations to improve fire safety outlined

**1.4. Day 4: 13 March 2020**

<b>NO</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>OUTCOMES</b>
1	Wild land urban interface	Western Cape PDMC	Improved knowledge of wildland urban interface risks
2	High-level reports by Inspection Team Leaders	Inspection teams	Key remedial actions identified
3	Seminar closing statement	NDMC	Key issues / resolutions of the seminar outlined

It is important to note that the draft programme is not exhaustive of all thematic areas.