

**Pharoah, Robyn. An assessment of the city of Cape Town's 2006 winter preparedness strategy. (BSc Honours thesis in Disaster Risk Science, 2006)**

Heavy winter rainfall in Cape Town results in annual flooding between May and September, most common and severe in informal settlements where chronic low intensity flooding damages and destroys people's belongings, causing illness and misery. The Disaster Risk Management Directorate is responsible for mitigating and responding to flooding and other hazards in the Metropole, developing a winter preparedness strategy each year that sets out the City's risk reduction programme and its contingency planning for potential flooding. The Disaster Management Act of 2003 stipulates that such strategies should provide a framework for coordinated action, focusing on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, mitigating the severity of those that occur, and strengthening emergency preparedness measures to ensure effective response and appropriate post-disaster recovery. A DiMP assessment showed that the 2004 strategy failed to meet these objectives and identified several weaknesses. Building on this research, this study examines the City of Cape Town's 2006 winter preparedness strategy in the context of best practice and suggests that there are still improvements to be made. Risk reduction functions need to be integrated across all spheres of government, while there must be increasing engagement with local communities, ongoing risk and vulnerability assessment and improved information management.