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*Making Life Safer*

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# CERT



**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

# The Rationale for... Community-Based Preparedness Planning

## When a major disaster strikes a community....

- critical resources – emergency services, communications, transportation, and lifeline systems – are often overwhelmed.
- Neighbourhoods and businesses are cut off from outside support.
- There may be restricted access of emergency response organizations into critically affected areas.



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# The Rationale for... Community-Based Preparedness Planning

In every major disaster, **volunteers emerge from within a community** to do the initial search, rescue, and first aid.

Combine this fact with the **probability that local critical resources will be overwhelmed.....**

You now have **2 good reasons to prepare at the community level.**



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# The Rationale for... Community-Based Preparedness Planning

## What we Know! --- TWO FACTS

- **Hazard reduction and preparedness efforts reduce injuries, loss of lives, and property damage.**
- **Preparedness efforts are more successful if they are *incorporated* into the social and political fabric of the **community** - neighbourhoods, schools, work places, churches, etc.**



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# The Rationale for... Community-Based Preparedness Planning

## What we Know! ...Four TRUTHS from past efforts...

- ***Give a person extinguisher today and the chances are high that tomorrow:***
  1. **It is gone!**
  2. **The Person is gone!**
  3. **The extinguisher is not serviced.**
  4. **We have probably wasted time and effort.**



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# Background to CERT...

## *Where did it start?*

### Lessons from Japan

In February of **1985**, a group of Los Angeles City officials went to Japan to study its extensive earthquake preparedness plans. The group encountered a society that had taken extensive steps to train entire neighbourhoods in one aspect of alleviating the potential devastation that would follow a major earthquake.

These single-function neighbourhood teams were trained in either fire suppression, light search and rescue operations, first aid, or evacuation.



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# Background to CERT...

## *Where did it start?*

### Lessons from Mexico City

*In September of that year (1985)....*

- Los Angeles City investigation team sent to Mexico City following an 8.1 magnitude earthquake.
- More than 10,000 people were killed and 30,000 injured.
- Prior to disaster, Mexico City had no training program for citizens. However, *large groups of volunteers spontaneously organized and performed light search and rescue operations.*
- Volunteers are credited with more than 800 successful rescues.
- Unfortunately, more than 100 of these untrained volunteers died during the 15-day rescue operation.



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# Background to CERT...

## *Where did it start?*

### A Pilot Program in Los Angeles

- The City of Los Angeles Fire Department developed a pilot program to train a group of leaders in a neighbourhood watch organization.
- Concept involved multi-functional volunteer response teams with the ability to perform basic fire suppression, light search and rescue, and first aid.
- First team of 30 people completed training in early 1986 and proved that the concept was viable through various drills, demonstrations, and exercises.



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# Background to CERT...

*Where did it start?*

## A Commitment to Community Preparedness

- On October 1, 1987, the Whittier Narrows earthquake demonstrated the need to expedite the training of civilians to prepare for earthquakes and other emergencies
- LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division within the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

## Their objectives included:

- Educate and train the public and government sectors in disaster preparedness
- Research, evaluate, and disseminate disaster information
- **Develop, train, and maintain a network of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).**



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# Since 1986.....

## COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM TRAININGS ANNOUNCED IN EAST COU

[More December 2010 Articles](#) | [Wildfire News](#) | [CERT](#) | [CERT training](#) | [disaster training](#) | [Heartland Fire](#)



Are You Prepared For A Disaster? Earthquake, Fire? County CERT Training Schedule Announced



State Employee CERT Recruitment Call

Home | [Who are we?](#) | [How to join](#) | [NJ contacts](#)

Be part of an organized CERT Team trained to protect yourself, your family and your community

>> [See our brochure](#) pdf

CERT Teams have been utilized for:

- Search for lost or kidnapped children



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# The CERT Programme

## Training for the Entire Community

Training is given to meet the specific needs of three groups:

### 1. Community Groups

Homeowners associations, neighbourhood watch groups, or religious organizations are brought together to form geographically distributed teams.

### 2. Business and Industry

Business groups are selected depending on location and where they can accomplish the most good for the public during a large disaster. This includes high-rise office buildings, large hotels, or large industrial complexes.

### 3. Municipal Government

In order to improve disaster operations and the Municipality's recovery abilities, Municipal employees are trained, thus enabling municipal government to continue providing needed services to its citizens.



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# The BVFD Strategy





# The BVFD Strategy

## CORPORATE DIRECTION

**Vision statement**  
*Making Life Safer*

**Mission statement**  
*Protecting our community and the environment from fires and other emergencies*

**Our Motto**  
*Making a Difference....Everyday!*

### Key strategies

- Develop our staff and succession planning
- Enhance our community safety focus
- Building partnerships
- Building emergency response capacity
- Building disaster management capacity
- Planning for the future



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# BVFD



# Model

## Firefighter Safety

The risk to individual Firefighter safety, or other emergency responders working under the direction of the Fire and Rescue Service, posed by the hazards present on site and the likely consequences of any actions or failures of mitigating risk features

## Individual and Societal

The risk to the personal safety of persons other than Firefighters, or other emergency responders working under the direction of the Fire and Rescue Service, who may be directly or indirectly affected by the event and the implications for wider society of any actions or failures of mitigating risk features.

## Community

The value of a site to the economic and social welfare of a community and the probable outcomes of a loss of the site including critical infrastructure and business.

## Heritage

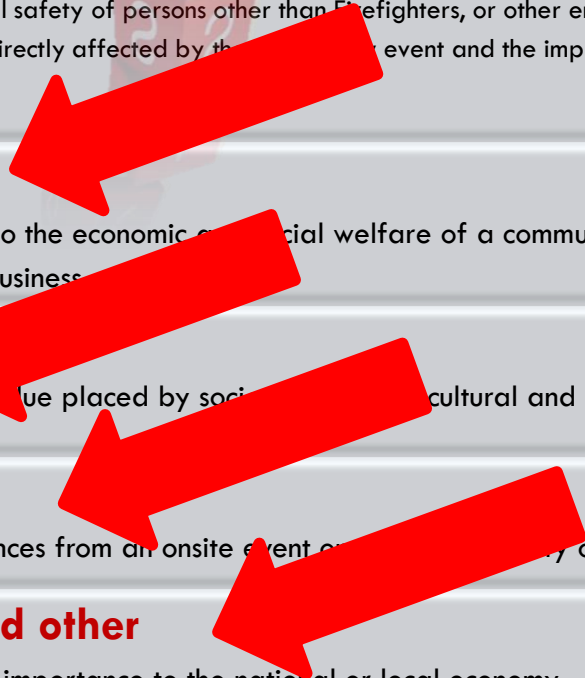
Recognition of the value placed by society on the cultural and historic presence as part of the fabric of the national and local community.

## Environment

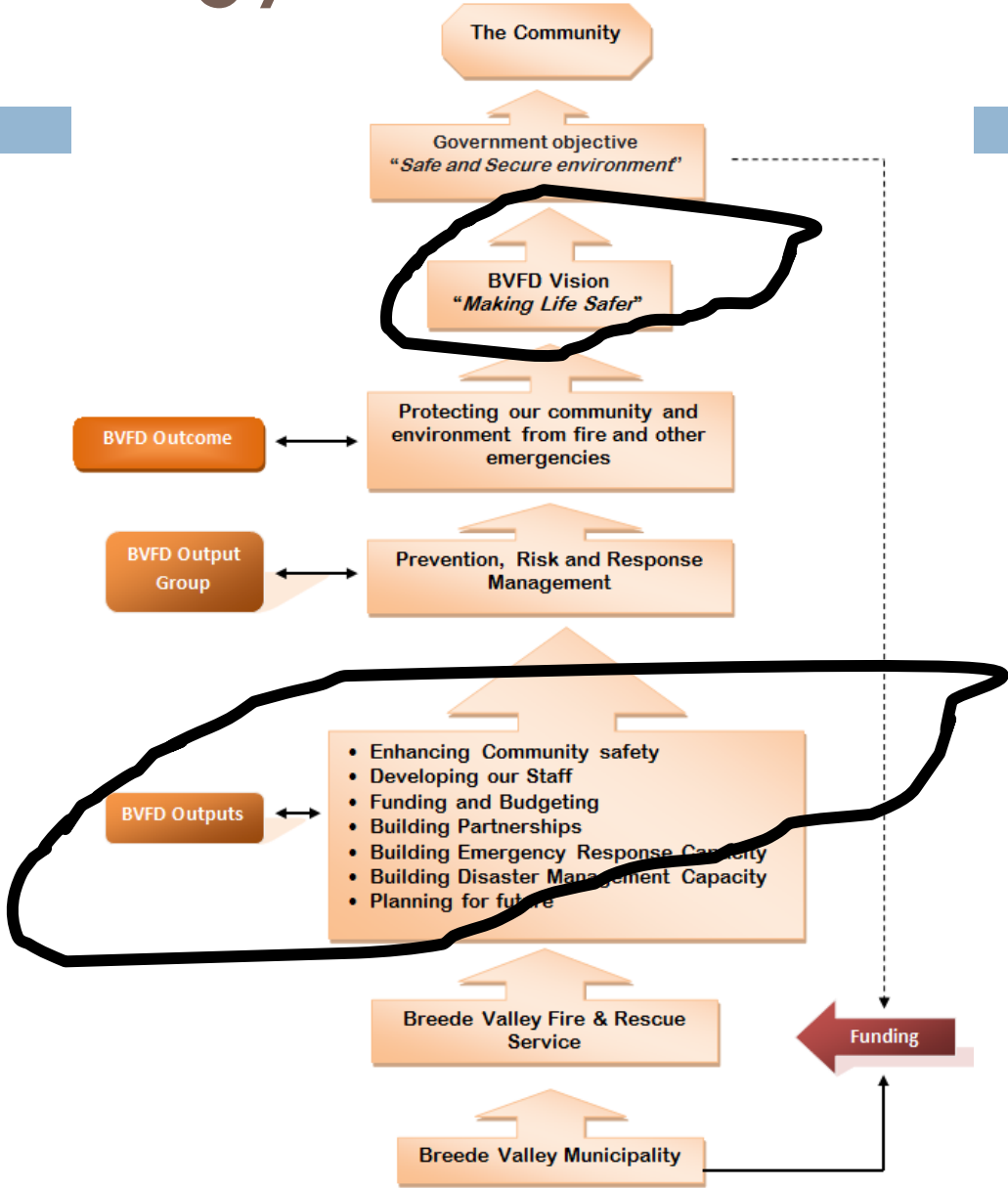
The likely consequences from an onsite event on the quantity or quality of the surrounding natural and human environments.

## Economic and other

Risks are judged of importance to the national or local economy.



# BVFD Strategy





# BVFD Strategy

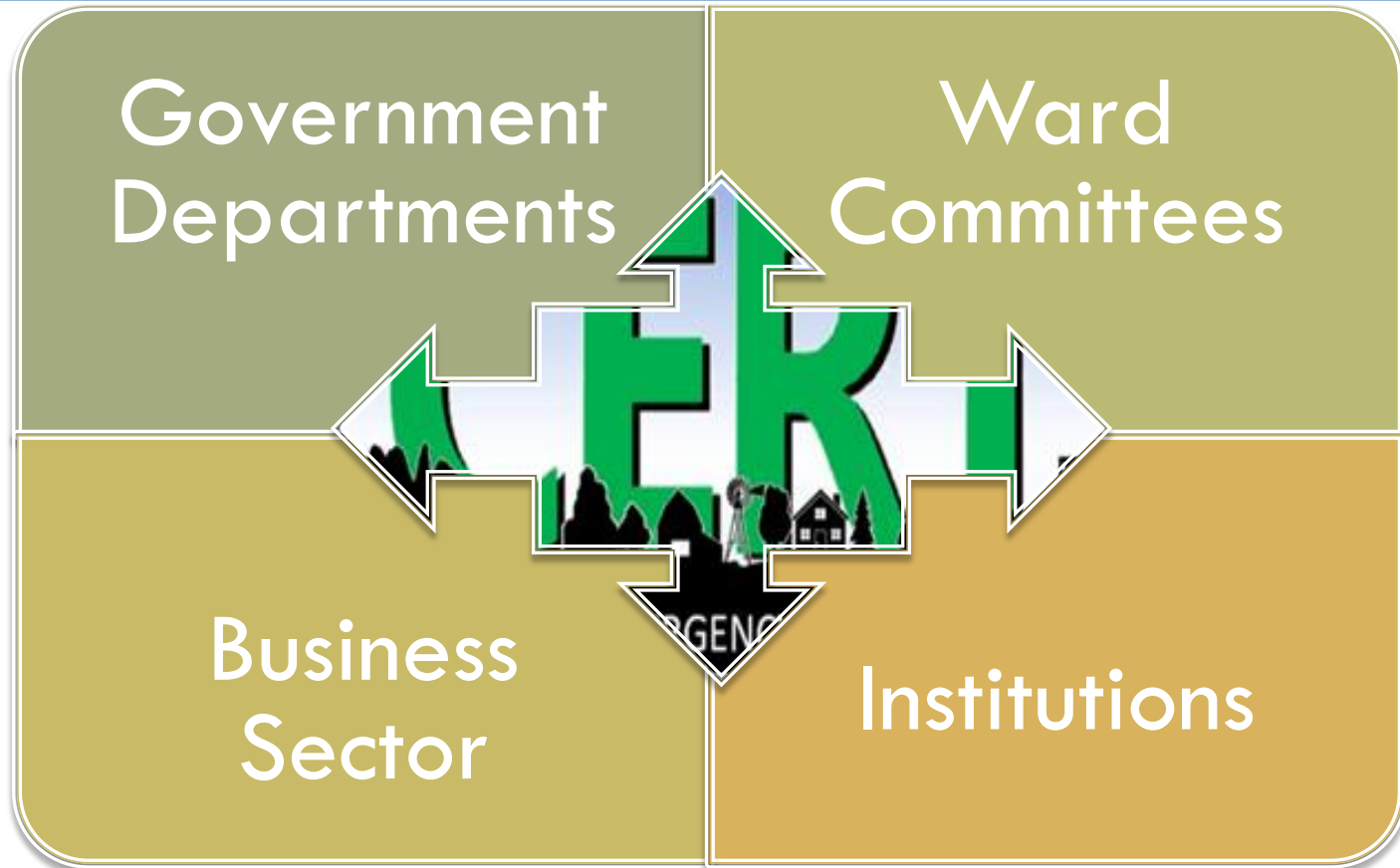
Strategy 2 - Enhancing our Community Safety & Risk Management Focus  
[Key Risk Addressed: Community]



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# The BVFD Implementation Model



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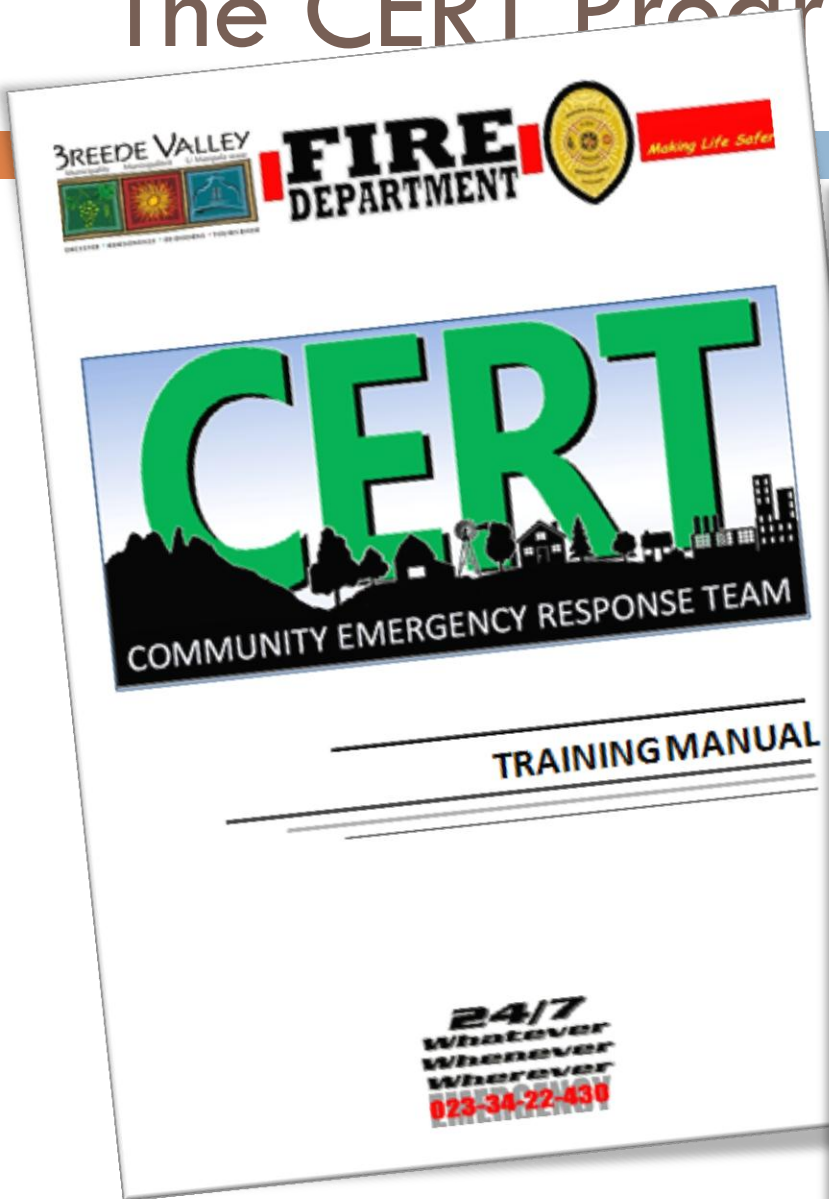
# The CERT Programme

## The Curriculum

- Seven week, 17 ½ hour training programme
- Not designed to enable civilians to respond to a disaster with the ability of professional emergency personnel. Rather it teaches greater self-sufficiency and optimizes chances of survival.
- Attempts are made to custom fit each program to the needs of the group receiving the training



# The CERT Programme



## The Curriculum

- 1.01.1 Disaster Preparedness**
- 1.01.2 Fire Safety and Utility Controls**
- 1.01.3 Disaster Medical Operations — Part 1**
- 1.01.4 Disaster Medical Operations — Part 2**
- 1.01.5 Light Search and Rescue Operations**
- 1.01.6 CERT Organization**
- 1.01.7 Disaster Psychology**
- 1.01.8 Public Disorder and CERT**
- 1.01.9 Course Review, Final Exam, and Disaster Simulation**

# How CERTS Operate

- As each CERT is organized its members select a CERT Team Leader (CTL) and identify a meeting location, or staging area, to be used in the event of a disaster.
- The staging area is where the fire department and other services will interact with CERTs.
- Members are taught to assess their own needs and the needs of those in their immediate environment first.
- Acting as individuals first, then later as members of teams, trained CERT volunteers can fan out within their assigned areas, extinguishing small fires, turning off natural gas at damaged homes, performing light search and rescue, and rendering basic medical treatment.
- CERTs also act as effective “eyes and ears” for uniformed emergency responders. Trained volunteers also offer an important potential workforce to service organizations in non-hazardous functions such as shelter support, crowd control, and evacuation.



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# The BVFD Implementation Model: Phase 1 – Wards

## OUR APPROACH.....

- Each Ward is a **Human Settlement**
- Each Settlement has a **mixture of Residents** *from the shop owner to the office worker to the domestic worker to the farmworker to the unemployed person to the recent school leaver*
- Target is persons **between 18-35 years**
- This mixture should be **encouraged to participate**



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# The BVFD Implementation Model: Phase 1 – Wards

- Introduction of the CERT in Wards is a clearly stated objective in terms of the BVFD Strategy
- Self registering of persons from within a Ward *PLUS* The **Ward Committees** will have the opportunity of nominating persons from within their Wards that meet certain pre-requisites\*
- Initial Pilot Ward was to be Touws River as it is both a town and a ward; and more importantly the furthest ward that could expect a speedy response from government services during a major emergency or disaster.



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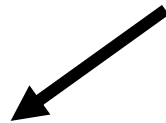
# The BVFD Implementation Model: Phase 1 – Wards

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN A PARTNERSHIP



### CoGTA

- The CWP is an area-based programme that is implemented in a defined local area or site, that is usually a ward in a municipal area



Office of the Premier has mandated the CWP to include elements of community preparedness, protection and prevention of fire into the programme.

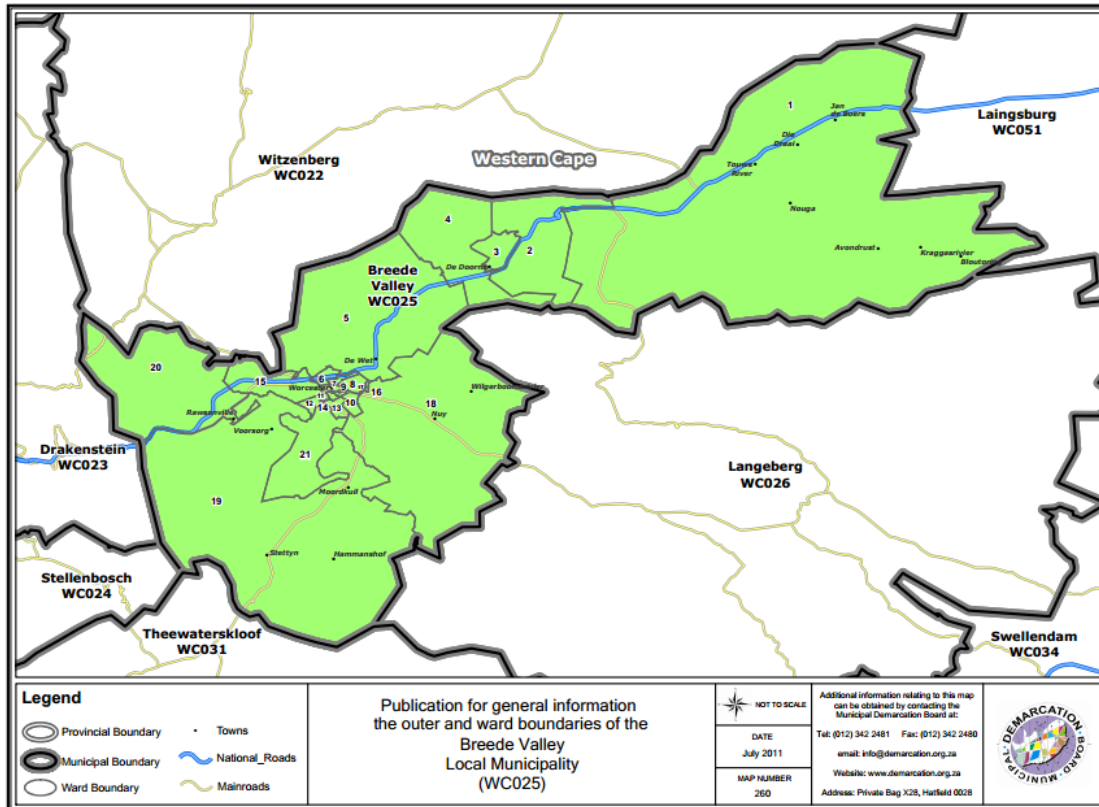


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# The BVFD Implementation Model: Phase 1 – Wards

## WHAT CAN THE PARTNERSHIP DO FOR THE CERT PROJECT?



### Principle Agreement that:

- Pilot will identify 10 persons per Ward
- Equals to 210 CERT Participants
- Expected commencement on 01 April 2013
- First CERT Teams to be in place by November 2013



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# The BVFD Implementation Model: Phase 1 – Wards

**OUTPUTS**

- **Self Empowerment**
- **More Resilient Communities (DM Act...)**
- **Whole of Society Approach**
- **Nation Building**

**OUTCOMES**

- **RISK REDUCTION**
- **PREPAREDNESS**
- **SUPPORT 'VOLUNTEER' RESOURCE FOR FIRE SERVICES & DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

Thus Far....



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# Phase 2: BVFD EARS Programme



**AIM:** To establish a programme that target necessary component of emergency impending and actual disasters.

## EMERGENCY AUXILIARY RADIO SUPPORT Programme

*Securing Emergency Communications Capability*

Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
Breede Valley Municipality  
Herein represented by the Breede Valley Fire Department (BVFD)  
And  
HAMNET Western Cape (HWC)



### Frequency Spectrum Licence and/or Radio Station Licence or Radio Dealer Certificate

Issued in terms of the Electronic Communications Act, 2005 (Act No. 36 of 2005)  
and the Radio Regulations currently in force.

Licence number: 534-263-9

Region: code: 63

Region: CAPE TOWN

Amateur - Unrestricted

Call Sign : ZS1 BVF

Purpose of Communication : AMATEUR RADIOCOMMUNICATION

Thank You



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