



## Eskom donates R350 000 to Red Cross to help Kouga fire victims

Eskom handed over a cheque for R350 000 to the Port Elizabeth Red Cross to assist people in Kouga, who were affected by the fire disaster in June 2017.

Thanking Eskom, Red Cross branch manager in Port Elizabeth and in Sarah Baartman district, Corriele Pree-Swartz, said the funds will be used to equip and train affected communities on how to prevent and survive disaster situations.

Much of the funds will be allocated to areas where more than 200 residents were evacuated when runaway fires threatened homes and surrounding farm areas.

The fire destroyed about 27 000 ha of vegetation in the Longmore and Thohmihlo areas, as well as farm land, buildings and equipment.

Kouga fire-fighters were able to save Longmore Village from burning down, but

the community was left without electricity or water because of fire damage to the infrastructure. Kouga's Executive Mayor Eliza Van Lingen said:

"The municipality had to act fast to prevent a humanitarian crisis. Water was trucked in, a generator and portable toilets were installed, plus hot meals were delivered to the village with the assistance of community volunteers and NGOs."

Jongi Dyabaza, stakeholder coordinator

at Eskom, said Eskom is grateful to help Kouga through its partnership with the Red Cross.

"Eskom takes its social responsibility towards communities seriously and we are glad that we can be there for Kouga people in a time of trouble," he said.

At the handover Van Lingen maintained that the municipality was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from all corners of South Africa during the crisis.



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