BEAUFORT WEST MUNICIPALITY

Central Karoo District | Western Cape Province

SEVERE WEATHER READINESS & SERVICE CONTINUITY PLAN

Cut-Off Low Pressure System – May 2026

⚠ ORANGE LEVEL 6 WARNING ACTIVE – CENTRAL KAROO ⚠

Date of Activation	Valid Period	Approved By	SAWS Warning Level
5 May 2026	5 – 8 May 2026	Municipal Manager	Orange Level 6



1. WEATHER ALERT OVERVIEW

This Severe Weather Readiness and Service Continuity Plan has been activated in response to the South African Weather Service (SAWS) Orange Level 6 Warning for disruptive rainfall over the Central Karoo, including the Beaufort West municipal area, effective from Wednesday 6 May 2026 through Thursday 7 May 2026.

⚠ SAWS ACTIVE WARNING – ORANGE LEVEL 6 ⚠
System Type: Cut-Off Low Pressure System
Warning Level: Orange Level 6 – Disruptive Rain | Flooding of Roads and Settlements
Period: Wednesday 6 May – Thursday 7 May 2026
Expected Rainfall: Disruptive accumulations likely; localised flooding possible
Additional Threats: Strong winds | Cold temperatures | Possible snowfall on high-lying passes
Source: South African Weather Service (SAWS) Regional Forecast – 5 May 2026

1.1 Meteorological Context

An intense cut-off low-pressure system is tracking eastward from the South Atlantic Ocean, making landfall over the Western Cape from Tuesday 5 May 2026. Conditions are expected to deteriorate progressively from Tuesday afternoon and peak on Wednesday 6 May, continuing through Thursday 7 May 2026.

For Beaufort West and the broader Central Karoo region, the SAWS has specifically issued an Orange Level 6 Warning for disruptive rainfall leading to flooding of roads and settlements. The following secondary hazards are anticipated:

- Flash flooding of low-lying areas, drainage channels, and underpasses along the N1 and R381
- Disruption to essential services including electricity supply, water, and road access
- Structural stress on informal settlements and poorly maintained infrastructure
- Cold spells and possible snowfall on high-lying mountain passes (Huguenot Tunnel, Piekenierskloof)
- Heightened risk to vulnerable communities including informal settlement residents and elderly persons

1.2 Scope of This Plan

This plan is structured across five operational phases and covers the following:

- Pre-event preparedness actions (before event landfall)
- Active response during the event
- Service continuity and essential infrastructure protection
- Recovery and rehabilitation following the event

- Communication protocols and inter-governmental liaison

2. CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE MANDATE

2.1 Constitutional Mandate

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), places the responsibility for the safety and well-being of all inhabitants upon all three spheres of government. Section 41(b) requires government to secure the well-being of all inhabitants, while Section 7(2) requires the government to respect, promote, and fulfil the rights contained in the Bill of Rights, including the right to life, dignity, and access to basic services.

2.2 Disaster Management Act

The Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), as amended, provides the legislative framework for this plan. Key provisions include:

- Section 48: Obligation on municipalities to prepare, maintain, and regularly update a Disaster Management Plan
- Section 53(2)(a): The DMP must form an integral part of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP)
- Section 55: Beaufort West Municipality bears primary responsibility for co-ordinating and managing local disasters within its jurisdictional area, irrespective of whether a local state of disaster has been declared
- Section 44: The Joint Operations Centre (JOC) is empowered to perform all functions necessary to respond to disasters

2.3 Declaration of a State of Disaster

In the event that the incoming weather system causes conditions meeting the threshold of a local disaster, the Municipal Manager must:

1. Initiate efforts to assess the magnitude and severity of the disaster and its consequences
2. Initiate the implementation of this plan and any applicable contingency plans
3. Inform the Central Karoo District Municipality (CKDM) and the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) of the situation and initial assessment

3. BEAUFORT WEST DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT

The following risk assessment is specific to the hazards associated with the current cut-off low-pressure system and its expected impact on the Beaufort West municipal area. Hazard priorities are informed by the SAWS warning categories, local geographic vulnerabilities, and the municipality's known service delivery constraints.

Hazard Type	Probability	Impact Rating	Vulnerability	Priority
Flash Flooding – N1 & Low Areas	Very Likely (1 in 1 month)	Extreme	Very Vulnerable	**CRITICAL**
Structural Fire (Post-Veld Fire Areas)	Likely (1 in 6 months)	Moderate	Vulnerable	**HIGH**
Road Infrastructure Damage	Very Likely (1 in 1 month)	Moderate	Very Vulnerable	**HIGH**
Power Supply Disruption	Very Likely (1 in 1 month)	Extreme	Vulnerable	**CRITICAL**
Water Supply Disruption	Likely (1 in 6 months)	Extreme	Very Vulnerable	**CRITICAL**
Informal Settlement Flooding	Very Likely (1 in 1 month)	Extreme	Very Vulnerable	**CRITICAL**
Road Closures (N1 / Passes)	Likely (1 in 6 months)	Extreme	Vulnerable	**HIGH**
Storm Damage to Structures	Likely (1 in 6 months)	Moderate	Vulnerable	**HIGH**
Communicable Disease Outbreak	Possible (1 in 6 months)	Moderate	Vulnerable	**MEDIUM**
Air Pollution / Cold Spell	Very Likely (1 in 1 month)	Moderate	Vulnerable	**MEDIUM**

Priority Key: CRITICAL = Immediate activation required | HIGH = Senior management response | MEDIUM = Departmental monitoring

4. DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMAND STRUCTURE

The Beaufort West Municipal Disaster Management Structure operates within the framework of the Disaster Management Act, 2002, and aligns with the Central Karoo District Municipality Disaster Management Centre (CKDM DMC) and the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC).

4.1 Incident Command Chain

Role	Responsibilities During This Event	Activation Trigger
Municipal Manager (Incident Commander)	Overall accountability; declare state of disaster if required; authorise emergency expenditure; brief Executive Mayor; liaise with CKDM and PDMC	SAWS Level 4+ Warning Issued
Director: Community Services (JOC Chairperson)	Chair Joint Operations Centre (JOC); co-ordinate inter-departmental response; manage Incident Command Centre (ICC); approve SITREP reports	24 hours before event landfall
Director: Infrastructure Services	Monitor and protect electricity, water, sanitation, roads and stormwater; deploy repair crews; manage contractor stand-by rosters	24 hours before event landfall
Manager: Disaster Relief	Co-ordinate early warning community notifications; manage temporary emergency shelter; distribute emergency supplies; maintain incident log	Immediate upon activation
Director: Corporate Services	Manage HR deployment; activate emergency procurement; ensure ICT continuity and backup systems; facilitate legal instruments	Upon JOC activation
Chief Financial Officer	Authorise emergency expenditure; maintain disaster fund access; facilitate emergency procurement within regulatory prescripts	Upon Municipal Manager activation
Manager: Communication & Marketing	Issue all public warnings; manage social media, radio, and press briefings; counter misinformation; co-ordinate media statements through approved spokespersons only	12 hours before event landfall
Chief: Fire, Rescue and Emergency	Command all fire and rescue operations; deploy swift water rescue teams; manage emergency medical liaison with CKDM EMS	Upon JOC activation
Chief: Traffic Services	Implement road closures; traffic management at flooded intersections; liaise with SANRAL re N1 corridor management	Upon JOC activation

4.2 Joint Operations Centre (JOC)

The JOC is activated for all Orange Level warnings and above. It is chaired by the Director: Community Services and includes the following standing members:

- Director: Infrastructure Services (Vice Chairperson)
- Manager: Disaster Relief
- Chief: Fire, Rescue and Emergency
- Chief: Traffic and Licensing
- Manager: Communication and Marketing
- South African Police Service (SAPS) – Beaufort West
- Central Karoo District Municipality EMS representative
- Eskom Regional Representative (where applicable)
- South African Weather Service liaison (via teleconference)

The JOC will convene no later than Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 15:00 and will hold situation report (SITREP) briefings every two hours during the active event window.

5. OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TIMELINE

The following phased response timeline aligns with the projected weather system progression and ensures structured, pre-emptive action at every stage.

Phase	Period	Key Actions
PHASE 1 PRE-ALERT	Mon 4 May Before 17:00	Distribute weather warning to all HODs and ward councillors. Inspect and clear all storm drains, culverts, and stormwater channels in identified flood-prone areas. Activate 24/7 standby duty roster for Emergency Services, Traffic, and Technical Services. Pre-position sandbags, pumping equipment, and generators at high-risk locations. Issue public early warning via radio (RSG, OFM), social media, and community WhatsApp groups. Verify emergency contact availability for all JOC members.
PHASE 2 ACTIVATION	Tue 5 May 12:00 – 18:00	Convene JOC by 15:00. Activate Incident Command Centre (ICC). Open Municipal Emergency Control Room for continuous 24-hour monitoring. Communicate road conditions to SANRAL (N1) and CKLM Roads (regional). Issue public advisory on road safety, shelter locations, and emergency contacts. Inspect informal settlement drainage and advise vulnerable households. Alert private medical service providers (Beaufort West Private Hospital) to stand by. Pre-deploy sandbag barriers at Donkin Street and Rustdene low-lying areas.
PHASE 3 ACTIVE EVENT	Wed 6 – Thu 7 May (Peak Rainfall)	Implement SITREP briefings every 2 hours. Close identified flood-prone roads immediately upon water ingress. Deploy traffic officers to N1 intersections and identified crossing points. Activate emergency shelter at Beaufort West Town Hall, RC Church Hall (Rustdene). Monitor Gamka River water levels continuously. Co-ordinate swift water rescue with CKDM Fire and Rescue. Protect electricity substations – deploy Technical Services teams. Maintain water supply continuity and activate backup pumping if required. Compile real-time casualty and damage register.
PHASE 4 STABILISATION	Fri 8 May 06:00 – 18:00	Conduct preliminary damage assessment across all wards. Prepare damage and loss report for submission to CKDM and Western Cape PDMC. Clear debris from roads, drainage systems, and public spaces. Restore electricity and water supply to affected areas. Issue public update on road conditions and service restoration progress. Arrange emergency food parcels for severely affected households.
PHASE 5 RECOVERY	8 May onwards	Submit formal Disaster Loss Assessment to CKDM within 72 hours of event. Engage Western Cape Department of Human Settlements re structural damage to informal dwellings. Initiate insurance processes for municipal infrastructure damage. Conduct ward-based community debriefings. Convene post-event JOC review session to capture lessons learned. Update Disaster Management Plan accordingly.

6. SERVICE CONTINUITY & DELIVERY DISRUPTION MANAGEMENT

The following table outlines the anticipated service delivery disruption risks associated with the current weather event and the pre-authorised response actions to be implemented by the responsible department.

Service	Disruption Risk	Pre-Authorised Response Action	Responsible
Electricity	CRITICAL – Substation flooding; downed power lines	Pre-deploy Technical Services teams to protect substations. Isolate high-risk circuits if flooding is imminent. Coordinate with Eskom for regional supply management. Activate backup generators for critical facilities (hospital, water pumps, control room).	Director: Infrastructure
Water Supply	HIGH – Pump station flooding; power failure	Activate backup pumping at Gamkaberg Reservoir. Pre-fill municipal reservoirs to maximum capacity before event. Deploy tanker trucks for critical supply if mains are interrupted. Secure chemicals and treatment compounds at elevated storage.	Director: Infrastructure
Sewage & Sanitation	HIGH – Pump station failure; drain overflow	Inspect and clear all sewer manholes in low-lying areas. Pre-position pumping tankers at high-risk pump stations. Issue advisory on hazardous wastewater exposure in flood-prone zones.	Director: Infrastructure
Road Network	CRITICAL – N1 flooding; gravel road wash-away; bridge overtopping	Implement automated road closure protocol at identified flood markers. Deploy traffic control at all affected intersections. Liaise with SANRAL re N1 corridor closure protocol. Communicate road closures on all public platforms in real time.	Chief: Traffic Services
Waste Management	MEDIUM – Vehicle access disruption	Suspend refuse collection in flooded areas. Implement alternative schedule upon stabilisation. Communicate service disruption and	Director: Infrastructure

		alternative collection points to residents.	
Emergency Services	LOW – Internal; managed via standby protocol	Activate full 24-hour standby deployment. Pre-position fire engine and ambulance at Rustdene and Rouxpos satellite stations. Mutual aid agreement with CKDM Fire and Rescue activated.	Chief: Fire, Rescue & Emergency
Health Services	HIGH – Access to Beaufort West Hospital; cold exposure risk	Liaise with Department of Health re hospital emergency protocols. Activate cold exposure advisory for rough sleepers and elderly. Request activation of mobile health clinic for cut-off communities.	Manager: Community Services
Schools & Public Buildings	MEDIUM – Structural risk to older structures	Inspect all municipal buildings for structural risk on Tuesday 5 May. Close and evacuate any at-risk facility immediately. Designate Town Hall, Recreation Centre, and RC Church Hall as emergency shelter sites.	Director: Corporate Services

7. COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC INFORMATION PROTOCOL

7.1 Internal Communication

All inter-departmental communication during the active event period must be conducted through the following channels, in order of priority:

1. JOC WhatsApp Strategic Command Group (Directors and above)
2. Municipal Control Room radio network (Traffic, Fire, Technical Services)
3. Direct telephonic communication using the contact list in Section 9
4. Written SITREP reports submitted every two hours to the Municipal Manager

No media statements may be issued by any departmental official without prior written approval from the Municipal Manager or the designated spokesperson.

7.2 Public Communication Channels

- RSG / OFM (radio broadcasts) – priority channel for rural and farming communities
- Official Municipal Facebook Page and Website – updated every 2 hours during active event
- Ward Councillor WhatsApp groups – direct community notifications
- Community notification via Municipal loud hailer vehicles in informal settlements
- Press statements to registered local and regional media (Die Burger, Beaufort West Courier)

7.3 Inter-Governmental Liaison Protocol

The following inter-governmental communication chain must be activated and maintained throughout the event:

Entity	Nature of Liaison	Frequency
CKDM Disaster Management Centre	Situation reports; mutual aid requests; resource mobilisation	Every 2 hours during active event
Western Cape PDMC	Escalation of disaster classification; provincial resource requests; state of disaster declaration if required	Every 4 hours / upon trigger event
SAWS Cape Town Office	Updated weather forecasts and warnings; wind and rainfall data	Every 2 hours
SANRAL N1 Operations	N1 road status and closure co-ordination; traffic management	Continuous during event
SAPS Beaufort West	Law enforcement support; community safety; crime prevention during disruption	Every 4 hours

Eskom	Electricity supply status; loadshedding co-ordination; fault repair	Every 2 hours
Department of Health: Central Karoo	Hospital capacity and emergency protocols; cold exposure response	Upon activation and every 4 hours

8. VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION

The following population groups have been identified as requiring targeted interventions during this severe weather event. Ward Councillors and Community Development Workers (CDWs) must be mobilised to support outreach to these communities by no later than Tuesday 5 May at 12:00.

8.1 Informal Settlements – Priority Areas

- **Rustdene (high density; flood-prone drainage channels)**
  - Deploy ward CDWs for door-to-door early warning
  - Pre-position sandbags at identified flooding ingress points
  - Open RC Church Hall, Rustdene as emergency shelter by Tuesday 5 May
- **Rouxpos (ageing housing stock; elevated wind damage risk)**
  - Inspect roof structures in partnership with Housing Officers
  - Identify households requiring pre-emptive temporary relocation
- **Transient farm worker communities along R381 and R353**
  - Engage Farm Neighbourhood Watch Volunteers for notification
  - Co-ordinate with Department of Agriculture and DAFF for isolated farm access

8.2 Elderly, Disabled, and Medically Dependent Residents

- Compile ward-level register of elderly and disabled residents in flood-prone areas
- Assign designated Community Health Workers to conduct welfare checks during the active event
- Ensure backup power continuity for medical equipment at homes of medically dependent residents
- Alert Beaufort West Primary Health Care Clinic to increased demand for cold exposure and injury treatment

8.3 Homeless Individuals and Rough Sleepers

- Activate temporary overnight shelter at Beaufort West Civic Centre Hall from Monday 4 May 2026
- Deploy municipal law enforcement for welfare checks along the CBD and N1 service road
- Engage NGOs (Shalom, local church organisations) to assist with distribution of blankets and warm meals
- Issue media advisory on cold exposure danger and shelter locations

9. EMERGENCY CONTACT DIRECTORY

All personnel listed below are part of the activated Municipal Response Team. The Municipal Control Room (available 24/7 during the active event) co-ordinates all emergency communication.

No.	Name	Role / Department	Contact
1	Municipal Manager	Incident Commander	Beaufort West Municipality – Main Switchboard
2	Director: Community Services	JOC Chairperson	Municipal Switchboard
3	Director: Infrastructure Services	JOC Vice Chairperson	Municipal Switchboard
4	Manager: Disaster Relief	Disaster Relief Co-ordinator	Municipal Switchboard
5	Director: Corporate Services	HR & ICT Continuity	Municipal Switchboard
6	Chief Financial Officer	Emergency Procurement	Municipal Switchboard
7	Manager: Communication	Public Information Officer	Municipal Switchboard
8	Chief: Fire, Rescue & Emergency	Emergency Operations Commander	023 414 8200 (24hr)
9	Chief: Traffic Services	Road Management & Closures	Municipal Switchboard
10	SAPS Beaufort West	Law Enforcement Support	023 414 8100 / 10111
11	CKDM Disaster Management Centre	District Co-ordination	023 449 6400
12	Western Cape PDMC	Provincial Escalation	021 483 5022 / 0800 220 250
13	Beaufort West Hospital	Medical Emergency Liaison	023 414 8200
14	SANRAL N1 Operations	National Road Management	0800 726 725
15	Eskom Central Karoo	Electricity Faults & Emergencies	0800 111 407
16	SAWS Cape Town Office	Weather Forecast Updates	021 937 0500
17	Municipal Emergency Control Room	24/7 Incident Monitoring	023 414 8000

10. RECOVERY AND REHABILITATION

During the recovery phase, all relevant role players will be mobilised to ensure a co-ordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to restoring normality. This phase commences as conditions begin to stabilise (expected from Friday 8 May 2026) and continues until all affected services are fully restored and affected households have received appropriate support.

10.1 Immediate Recovery Actions (0 – 72 Hours Post-Event)

1. Conduct comprehensive damage and loss assessment across all affected wards
2. Restore electricity and water supply to all affected areas as a priority
3. Clear roads, drainage systems, and public spaces of flood debris
4. Provide emergency food parcels and clothing to severely affected households (co-ordinate with SASSA and NGOs)
5. Submit formal disaster loss report to CKDM and Western Cape PDMC within 72 hours

10.2 Medium-Term Recovery Actions (1 – 4 Weeks Post-Event)

1. Engage Western Cape Department of Human Settlements regarding repair of flood-damaged structures
2. Initiate insurance claims for municipal infrastructure and equipment damage
3. Conduct ward-based community meetings to communicate recovery plan and timeline
4. Submit application to National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) for Disaster Relief Fund assistance if warranted
5. Review and update ward-based risk registers based on observations during the event

10.3 Plan Review and Lessons Learned

A formal JOC post-event review session must be held no later than 14 days following event stabilisation. The agenda must include:

- Review of all SITREP logs and incident register
- Assessment of service continuity performance against targets
- Identification of gaps in preparedness, response, and communication
- Recommendations for Disaster Management Plan amendments
- Community feedback from ward-based debriefings

All findings and amendments must be incorporated into the updated Beaufort West Disaster Management Plan within 60 days and submitted to the CKDM DMC.

11. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

11.1 Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Target	Responsible
JOC convened before event landfall	**By 15:00 Tue 5 May**	Municipal Manager
All storm drains inspected and cleared	**By 12:00 Tue 5 May**	Director: Infrastructure
Emergency shelters opened and staffed	**By 17:00 Tue 5 May**	Manager: Disaster Relief
Public warning issued via all channels	**By 08:00 Tue 5 May**	Manager: Communication
SITREP reports submitted to CKDM	**Every 2 hours during event**	JOC Chairperson
Electricity restoration to all areas	**Within 24 hrs of stabilisation**	Director: Infrastructure
Damage assessment report submitted	**Within 72 hrs of stabilisation**	All Directors
Zero preventable fatalities	**Throughout event**	All Departments

PLAN APPROVAL & SIGN-OFF
This Severe Weather Readiness and Service Continuity Plan has been activated under the authority of the Beaufort West Municipal Manager in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002).
Municipal Manager Signature: _____ Date: 5 May 2026
JOC Chairperson Signature: _____ Date: 5 May 2026
This plan must be reviewed and updated within 60 days of the event conclusion. Copies must be submitted to the Central Karoo District Municipality Disaster Management Centre and the Western Cape Provincial Disaster Management Centre.