

Feedback: Provincial OHS Health

OHS Committees

Most committees are functional with the exception of Ramotshere Moilwa Sub District, Greater Taung Sub District, Pudumoe, Reivillo, Manthe, Moshana, Mamusa, Utlwanang, and Itekeng Clinic with most reporting that they could not have the scheduled meetings owing to competing activities. The Provincial OHS Committee, however, resolved to give Ramotshere Moilwa and Utlwanag Clinic special attention by providing training. Institution OHS Committees for Moshana and Itekeng Clinic will be withdrawn owing to them having sufficient employees to form an OHS Committee.

OHS inspections

In July and August, Utlwanang Clinic, Morokweng Community Health Centre, and Mamusa Community Health Centre were inspected. The following challenges were identified:

- Security challenges
- Restricted vision from within the guard room to the facility
- Non-functional equipment - walkie talkies, metal detectors, no pepper spray
- Poor access control
- Infrastructure challenges
- Leaking roof
- Waste management challenges
- No waste receptacles
- Redundant equipment
- Poor housekeeping observed.

The following recommendations were made:

- Install larger, clear windows or CCTV monitors to provide a full view of entrance and surrounding areas.
- Assistant Director administration to monitor compliance of service providers.
- Install access control measures (e.g., boom gate, visitor log) to regulate entry in compliance with the *OHS Act* (General Safety Regulations).

- Repair or replace damaged roof sections to stop leaks and prevent water damage, in line with the *OHS Act* (General Safety Regulations – Building Safety).
- Engage a contracted waste-management service provider to supply receptacles.
- Implement a structured housekeeping programme in line with the General Safety Regulations – Housekeeping.

Emergency Services Stations at Morokweng, Christiana, Schweizer Reneke, Klerksdorp and Vryburg Call Centre were inspected with the following observations being noted:

- Fire protection measures are inadequate for the size and function of EMS stations.
- Expired medication was found in storerooms and EMS vehicles, posing a risk to patient safety.
- EMS vehicles are washed on pavements without proper drainage, leading to contamination and non-compliance with environmental health standards.
- Limited workspace.
- Dirty surroundings.
- Redundant goods.
- Loose and exposed cross-over wires pose tripping hazards and increase risk of electrical accidents.
- Staff and visitors with disabilities are unable to access the workplace easily, as entry requires climbing stairs (Vryburg, JMMH Call Centre).
- Infrastructure that compromises staff comfort, efficiency, and adherence to ergonomic standards.

The following recommendations were made:

- Install required number and type of extinguishers in line with SANS 1567 – Portable Fire Extinguishers and *OHS Act* Fire Precautions. Conduct annual servicing and train staff in proper use.
- Remove and dispose of expired stock according to SANS 10248-1 and the *Medicines Act*. Implement FIFO stock rotation, proper labelling, and monthly stock audits in compliance with Good Pharmacy Practice Standards.
- Construct a designated wash bay with proper drainage and an oil/grease trap in line with SANS 10400 Part P – Drainage and municipal by-laws.
- Comply with facilities regulations.
- Engage a qualified electrician to properly secure, reroute, or cover wiring in accordance with SANS 10142-1: Wiring of Premises and the *OHS Act* (Electrical Safety Regulations). Implement regular inspections to ensure continued compliance.
- Install ramps, handrails, or lifts in compliance with SANS 10400-S: Facilities for Persons with Disabilities to ensure universal accessibility of the workplace.
- Redesign the call centre layout or move operations to another space to comply with workplace safety and ergonomic requirements outlined in facilities regulations.

The OHS provincial team will continue inspecting institutions to provide a work environment that is conducive for workers. The PSA, as part of organised labour, will continue to work closely with the team.

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GENERAL MANAGER