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Dangers of Illegal Connections / Gevare van Onwettige Elektriese Verbindings / lingozi zoqhagamshelo lombane olungekho mthethweni

George Municipality appeals to the residents of George to report any illegal electrical connections they are aware of as this practice has led to fatalities with most recently a 9 year old child losing his life.

Mr Trevor Botha, Municipal Manager of George, says the highly dangerous conditions caused by illegal connections, cannot be emphasized enough. "I am deeply concerned for the lives of innocent children, adults as well as animals. The loss of a young life as happened in August this year should never take place. I appeal to our citizens to prevent this danger, report illegal connections so that they are removed."

Botha said legal consumers should seriously consider how these illegal connections affect them and their families. An illegal connection not only puts the perpetrator in danger of electrocution, risking injury and death but also the rest of the community.

These connections lie across pathways and walkways where anyone passing can easily be electrocuted. An additional risk is that illegally connected wires can also make contact with other items such as roofs, gutters and washing lines, making these items live and able to conduct electricity.

The human body can only withstand about 50 milli-ampere (less than 1% of the current drawn by an average kettle) through it, before a medical condition called ventricular fibrillation sets in. To safeguard people against this, each house with legal electricity and a tariff meter is fitted with an earth leakage protection unit.

Children can easily be killed, due to their lower weight, as a result of illegal connections not having earth leakage protection.

George Municipality can simply not keep up with the high costs of replacing transformers that can cost between R50 000 to R60 000 per unit. Due to a limited budget, that could mean that people that have waited a long time for legal electricity cannot be supplied as the funds have to be utilized for repairs and vandalism.

An electricity connection is considered illegal when it is connected to the George Municipal network without the organisation's permission. Wires are connected to a mini-substation or overhead pole. The forms of electricity theft include illegal connections, illegal electrification schemes and meter tampering and bypassing. These illegal electrical thefts are mostly in areas where illegal informal structures are built.

Where people have connected themselves illegally, George Municipality will continue to actively find the perpetrators and lay criminal charges against them. In terms of the Criminal Procedures Act, interference with and the damage to Municipal property, could be regarded as sabotage and should someone be found guilty of such an offence, a maximum term of imprisonment of 30 years can follow.

Illegal connections should be reported to 044 803 9222 or 044 801 9222 or after hours on 044 801 6300.

George Munisipaliteit doen 'n beroep op die inwoners van George om enige onwettige elektriese verbindings aan te meld waarvan hulle bewus is, aangesien hierdie praktyk tot sterftes gelei het met die mees onlangse geval waar 'n negejarige kind sy lewe verloor het.

Mnr Trevor Botha, munisipale bestuurder van George, sê die uiters gevaarlike toestande wat deur onwettige verbindings veroorsaak word, kan nie genoeg beklemtoon word nie. 'Ek is diep besorgd oor die lewens van onskuldige kinders, volwassenes sowel as diere. Die verlies aan 'n jong lewe, soos in Augustus vanjaar gebeur het, moes nooit plaasgevind het nie. Ek doen 'n beroep op ons burgers om hierdie gevaar te voorkom, om onwettige verbindings aan te meld sodat dit verwyder kan word. "

Botha het gesê wettige verbruikers moet ernstig oorweeg hoe hierdie onwettige verbindings hulle en hul gesinne beïnvloed. 'n Onwettige verbinding hou nie net gevaar in vir die dader van elektriese skok, 'n risiko vir beserings en die dood nie, maar ook vir die res van die gemeenskap.

Hierdie verbindings lê oor paadjies en gangpaaie waar almal wat verbygaan, maklik geskok kan word. 'n Bykomende risiko is dat drade wat onwettig verbind is, ook kontak kan maak met ander voorwerpe soos dakke, geute en waslyne, waardeur hierdie voorwerpe lewendig kan word en elektrisiteit kan gelei.

Die menslike liggaam kan slegs ongeveer 50 milli-ampere (minder as 1% van die stroom wat deur 'n gemiddelde ketel getrek word) weerstaan, voordat 'n mediese toestand genaamd ventrikulêre fibrillasie gebeur. Om mense daarteen te beskerm, is elke huis met wettige elektrisiteit en 'n tariefmeter, toegerus met 'n aardlekbeskermingseenheid.



Kinders kan maklik gedood word as gevolg van hul laer gewig weens onwettige verbindings wat nie aardlekbeskerming het nie.

George Munisipaliteit kan eenvoudig nie tred hou met die hoë koste om transformators te vervang wat tussen R50 000 tot R60 000 per eenheid kan kos nie. As gevolg van 'n beperkte begroting, kan dit beteken dat mense wat lank gewag het op wettige elektrisiteit nie voorsien kan word nie, aangesien die fondse aangewend moet word vir herstelwerk en vandalisme.

'n Elektrisiteitsverbinding word as onwettig beskou as dit sonder die organisasie se toestemming aan die George Munisipale-netwerk gekoppel is. Drade is aan 'n mini-substasie of 'n oorhoofse paal gekoppel. Die vorme van elektrisiteitsdiefstal sluit onwettige aansluitings, onwettige elektrifisering-skemas en meterpeutery in. Hierdie onwettige elektriese diefstalle is meestal in gebiede waar onwettige informele strukture gebou word.

George Munisipaliteit sal voortgaan om die oortreders, wat onwettige elektriese verbindings maak, aktief na te volg en strafregtelike klagte teen hulle aanhangig te maak. Ingevolge die Strafproseswet kan inmenging en die skade aan munisipale eiendom as sabotasie beskou word en sou iemand aan so 'n oortreding skuldig bevind word, kan 'n maksimum gevangenisstraf van dertig jaar volg.

Onwettige verbindings moet by 044 803 9222 of 044 801 9222 of na ure by 044 801 6300 aangemeld word.

uMasipala waseGeorge ucela kubahlali baseGeorge ukuba baxele naluphi na uqhagamshelo lombane olungekho mthethweni abanolwazi lwalo, kuba esi senzo siye sabangela ukufa okubandakanya umntwana oneminyaka eli- 9 othe walahlekelwa bubomi bakhe kutshanje.

uMnu. Trevor Botha, uMphathi kaMasipala waseGeorge uthi iimeko zeengozi eziphezulu ezibangelwa luqhagamshelo lombane olungekho mthethweni, azinakugxininiswa ngokwaneleyo. Ndixhalabe kakhulu ngobomi babantwana abangenatyala, abantu abadala kunye nezilwanyana. Ukuphulukana nobomi bomntwana njengoko kwenzekile kwinyanga yeThupha kulo nyaka akufanelanga kwehle. Ndiyabongoza kubemi ukuba bathintele le ngozi, xela uqhagamshelo lombane olungekho mthethweni ukuze lusususwe.

uBotha uthe abathengi abasemthethweni kufuneka baqwalasele ukuba uqhagamshelwano olungekho mthethweni lubachaphazela njani na kunye neentsapho zabo. Uqhagamshelo olungekho mthethweni alufaki menzi wobubi kuphela engozini yokubulawa ngumbane, ingozi yokulimala nokufa kodwa uluNtu luphela.

Olu qhagamshelo lulele ezindleleni nakwindledlana zokuhamba apho nabani na odlulayo anokubulawa ngumbane. Ingozi engaphezulu kukuba iingcingo eziqhagamshelwe ngokungekho mthethweni zingenza unxibelelwano nezinye izinto ezinjengophahla, imivalo kunye namacingo okuxhoma impahla, zenze ezi zinto zibe nombane kwaye zinikezele ngombane.

Umzimba womntu ungamelana noqukuqelo lombane olungama-50 ee 'milli-ampere' (nganeno kwepersenti yoqukuqelo e-1% etsalwa yiketile yomgangatho ophakathi) oludlula kuwo phambi kokuqalisa kwemeko yonyango ebizwa ngokuba yi 'ventricular fibrillation'. Ukukhusela abantu koku, indlu nganye enombane osemthethweni nesixhobo sokulinganisa ifakwe iyuniti yokhuseleko enocingo lombane olufakwe kolunye ucingo.

Abantwana bangabulawa lula, ngenxa yobunzima babo obusezantsi, ngenxa yoqhagamshelo olungekho mthethweni olungenacingo lokhuseleko lufakwe kunye kolunye ucingo.

uMasipala waseGeorge akanakumelana neendleko eziphezulu zokutshintsha iziguquli ezingaxabisa phakathi kwama- R50 000 ukuya kuma- R60 000 ngeyuniti. Ngenxa yohlahlo lwabiwo -mali olulinganiselweyo, oko kuya kuthetha ukuba abantu abebelindele umbane osemthethweni ixesha elide abanakubonelelwa kuba imali kumele isetyenziselwe ukulungisa kunye nokonakalisa okuyinkohlakalo.

Uqhagamshelo lombane luthathwa njengolungekho mthethweni xa luqhagamshelwe kuthungelwano lukaMasipala waseGeorge ngaphandle kwemvume yombutho. Iingcingo ziqhagamshelwe kwisikhululo sombane esincinci okanye kwiipali eziphezulu. Iindlela zobusela bombane ziquka uqhagamshelo olungekho mthethweni, iinkqubo zofakelo lombane olungekho mthethweni kunye nobhucabhuco lwesixhobo sokulinganisa kunye noqhagamshelo oluvumela uqukuqelo lombane xa iingcingo ezinkulu zivaliwe. Obu busela bombane ongekho mthethweni buninzi kwiindawo apho kwakhiwe izakhiwo zamatyotyombe.

Apho abantu baziqhagamshelwe ngokungekho mthethweni, uMasipala waseGeorge uya kuqhubeka ukufumana ngenkuthalo abenzi bobubi kwaye abeke izimangalo ngakubo. NgokoMthetho weeNkqubo zoLwaphulo -mthetho, ukubhucabhuca kunye nomonakaliso kwipropati kaMasipala, kungathathwa njengokonakalisa ngabom kwaye ukuba ubani ufunyenwe enetyala lolwaphulo- mthetho olunjalo, elona xesha lokuvallelwa entolongweni leminyaka engama-30 lungalandela.

Uqhagamshelo olungekho mthethweni lungaxelwa kwa- 044 803 9222 okanye kwa- 044 801 9222 emva kweeyure zomsebenzi kwa- 044 801 6300.

The Economic Development office has moved to 62 Cathedral Street, Unit BB03 to a bigger and better office space. The new premises will not only have new offices for staff but comes with a one-stop-shop to provide small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and entrepreneurs with guidance and to connect them to business development services. Get in touch with the Economic Development team via email Kenneth Langeveldt at klangeveldt@george.gov.za or on 044 801 9099.

Die kantoor vir ekonomiese ontwikkeling het verhuis na Kathedraalstraat 62, Eenheid BB03, 'n groter en beter kantoorruimte. Die nuwe geboue sal nie net nuwe kantore vir werknemers hê nie, maar 'n een-stop-shop word vir klein, medium en mikro-ondernemings (KMMO's) en ondernemers van leiding te gee en om hulle aan sakeontwikkelingsdienste te verbind. Kontak die Ekonomiese Ontwikkelingspan via e-pos Kenneth Langeveldt by klangeveldt@george.gov.za of by 044 801 9099.