



Status of paraffin appliances in South Africa



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Fire & Ambulance: 10 177
From cell phone: 112
Police: 10 111

The Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa is a joint social responsibility initiative of



POISON
Info centre:
021 931 6129
Advice:
0800 333 444

From the smouldering shack

A warm welcome to **PARAFFIN MATTERS 4**



The World Health Organisation recently issued its 2008 World Report on Child Injury Prevention. The report states that "Child injuries are a growing global public health problem. They are a significant area of concern from the age of one year, and progressively contribute more to overall rates of death until children reach adulthood. For each area of child injury there are proven ways to reduce both the likelihood and severity of injury yet awareness of the problem and its preventability as well as political commitment to act to prevent child injury, remain unacceptably low." The two areas of child injuries which we as the Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa work very actively on are burns and paraffin related poisonings. Burns affect adults as well. For us here in South Africa, we don't need the World Report to show us that these are real problems.

The contribution of faulty and illegal paraffin appliances to fire incidents is too horrific to ignore. Almost daily our media is replete with horrific stories of people dying due to appliance related problems. During March, I visited a family in Phillipi where a woman and her children perished during a fire which started as a result of a faulty and illegal flame stove. These stoves continue to pour into the market as unscrupulous businessmen illegally import and sell them.

So in this edition of the newsletter, we focus primarily on the issue of paraffin appliances. Glenn Truran, our General Manager,

has produced a very useful educational piece on appliances and standards to explain everything (page 3). We feature the story of our colleague, Mrs Sibongile Zenzile who was burnt when a paraffin stove she was using to cook simply conflagarated and burst into flames (page 4). We also carry other stories which show that a major problem is the faulty design and unsafe features of particularly the non-pressure appliances. This continues to happen even though we have regulations which govern the design, manufacture and sale of these appliances.

The enforcement of the regulation has been slow in coming but it seems that it is gradually improving. It is for this reason that we were extremely excited when we read in the media that the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) a body responsible for enforcement of standards regulations, raided a shop in Cape Town, confiscated the illegal stoves and arrested about four people. We support and encourage tough action by our authorities and we work closely with them.

I am happy to announce that Petro SA has joined us. They are now a full member of PASASA and serve on our board, represented by Mr Muziwandile Mseleku. We welcome them.

As usual we report on some of our numerous activities happening right around the country. I hope you find this edition enjoyable. Should you want to engage with us in any way, please feel free to write or contact us.

Enjoy your reading.

Patrick Kulati
Managing Director
Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa

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YOU'RE INVITED TO CONTRIBUTE TO PARAFFIN MATTERS

Do you have a 'burning issue', poem, photo, drawing, or short story about household energy use? Send it to us and we will publish it!

PARAFFIN SAFETY INFORMATION LINE:

0861-22-44-22

OFFICE HOURS ON WEEKDAYS ONLY



Investigation of shack fires

Glenn Truran investigates...

When a fire rages through an informal settlement, it leaves in its wake evidence of what was among the charred remains. It tells a story. You can see how households dealt with their thermal and light energy requirements. You can also learn much about fire prevention by sifting through the evidence. The following has been observed in fires that we have recently investigated:

- Illegal, unsafe appliances are in abundance
- Many appliances should have been scrapped because they were beyond repair and in a very unsafe condition to use
- Stoves and heaters are left operating unattended
- Flame appliances are used less than 50cm away from flammable objects like curtains, beds and wall paper
- Dwellings are built too close together – radiant heat and sometimes strong winds cause the fires to spread rapidly
- All energy types (electricity, gas, gel, candles, paraffin) are being used very unsafely
- Solid ash-brick or concrete walls serve as very good firebreaks

George Gogh case study 12 December 2008

This fire scene was visited more than 24 hours after the fire yet there was still smouldering debris. Sizwe Vezi lived in the shack adjacent to where the fire started. He was busy rebuilding his shack before he could go home to Emsinga in KZN. He had lost everything. I asked him what had happened.

Between 8h00 and 9h00 on Thursday 11 December his neighbour returned from night shift as a security guard. He was cooking food on a paraffin stove when something went wrong and in no time there was an uncontrolled fire. A report in the Star newspaper said the stove “exploded” and the neighbour ran away for fear of reprisal. When Sizwe tried to get into his shack to rescue his belongings he was unable to do so; “I opened the door but I could not enter”. The fire was blazing out of control. The fire spread very quickly and although the fire brigade responded to a call, the blaze was not under control before more than 40 shacks were destroyed. There was fortunately only one reported burn injury.



40 shacks destroyed. Sizwe is rebuilding his shack where it once stood. The fire started in the shack that was located where the two people are standing. In the background is the spaza shop fire wall.



Sizwe Vezi who lost everything in this blaze.

Sizwe said that he felt very bad about his loss. He was not alone. Upon further investigation we located the stove that caused the blaze. It was an illegal stove that either is sold under the brand name of “PAT” or “Big Wheel”. It originates from China.

What really happened? It is impossible to tell because the area was cleared before a proper investigation could take place. However, the reason the particular stove is illegal is because the design is known to be flawed and very dangerous. The paraffin in the tank of this stove can heat up to anything



The illegal stove responsible for the mayhem. Imported from China, this stove sells as “PAT” or “Big Wheel” brand.

like 80° Celsius while in normal operation – at this temperature the fuel becomes a vapour that will easily explode. SABS standards require that the fuel should never exceed 40°C.

This case was also fascinating because, although the fire started right next to a spaza shop and 40 dwellings were destroyed, the spaza shop had no damage because they had built an ash-brick firewall for this very purpose!

Lessons

It is clear from our investigations that preventative measures like the following must be taken to avoid unnecessary hardship;

- Like motor vehicles, paraffin appliances are dangerous machines. Do not use illegal or worn out (old) appliances – they are too risky
- Never leave an appliance unattended
- Always have a safe distance between the appliance and flammable surfaces and materials
- Do not build closer than 5 metres to your neighbours or have a very good fire wall.



MINIMUM SAFETY OPERATING DISTANCES

| | DISTANCE FROM WALLS, FURNITURE & CURTAINS | DISTANCE ABOVE APPLIANCE (SHELVES, CEILINGS, BEAMS) |
|---------|---|---|
| STOVES | 50 centimetres | 100 centimetres |
| HEATERS | 100 centimetres | 100 centimetres |

Important note: If a manufacturer recommends a bigger minimum distance – follow their instructions

Sibongile Zenzile

The Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa is proud to bring you a new feature in our quarterly newsletter called, *My Story*. The aim of this feature is to give a platform to burn survivors to share stories and challenges they encounter. In our beloved country, South Africa, the plight and challenges facing them have been neglected for years. The time has come for the plight of all burn survivors to be heard. In this edition, we profile a humble lady who hails from the Eastern Cape, in a small village called kwa Dlomo. Sibongile Zimasa Zenzile is currently working for PASASA as a Data Capturer and an Ambassador and resides in Site-C, Khayelitsha Cape Town.

Can you tell us what happened to you?

It was back in 1996 while I was still based in the Eastern Cape. I was busy cooking for my child who was 8-months old at the time. I had my child on my right hand and I was busy with my other hand turning-off my flame stove. During that process, I was busy lifting the pot and the stove just exploded. Within seconds, my house was engulfed by flames and my child's clothes caught on fire. In my area then, there was only one tap for the area but fortunately I had a bucket full of water in my house. I quickly ran for the bucket and poured water all over my baby and that is how I managed to save her. It was then that I realized that my clothes caught on fire as well. My body was caught alight and it felt like I was being eaten alive. I poured water on my body and in the process our neighbours came to our rescue and took us to the nearest hospital.

How did you feel after the accident? What was going through your mind in the early stages?

While sitting in a hospital bed, I then realized that my life has now changed. It was difficult to accept the feeling that my life and physical appearance has changed forever. My face and body has now been disfigured. At first, I thought I was going to die from the burns and thinking about all the dreams and aspirations I had because I was still young, 23 years old. I was also haunted by the fact of leaving my young daughter behind.

Did you ever think you would get better?

I had little hope because in my ward, other patients did not make it and I also thought that I would die and leave my family and friends behind.



Sibongile with her family, daughters Indiphile and Thina, son Sipho and husband Buyisile

How was the support from your family during this time?

I was so convinced that my husband was going to leave me because now I was a different Sibongile. Fortunately, he stuck with me and gave me his assurance that he would support me all the way. Through the grace of God, support from family and my congregation, we have been together now for 14 years and the Mighty Lord has blessed us with three children.

How were you treated by your community?

At first I didn't want to be amongst people because they treated me differently. They used derogatory and hurtful names like Kentucky Fried Chicken and they used to laugh at me. Other community members drew their own conclusions saying that I got what I deserved because I might have been going out with a married man. What was worse is that they never bothered to ask me what really happened. For the first six months, I was wearing a mask and when kids see me, they would run away and that affected me because I love children.

What do you think needs to be done by the community towards burn survivors?

We as burn survivors did not ask for the situation we find ourselves in today. Accidents happen every day to people. We should not be ill-treated because we did not ask for it. What happened to me and other survivors can happen to anyone anytime. We have the potential of achieving everything that others are capable of but we just need to be given the space and not be discriminated against. Communities need to embrace us.

What role should the government play?

Firstly, they need to create job opportunities for burn survivors as well and a conducive environment. In most cases, we are rejected because of our physical appearance even if you have all the requirements when looking for a job. They also need to educate communities about unsafe paraffin stoves that are destroying our people and communities. We still have a high rate of children drinking paraffin because there are no safe containers that we can use. Most burn survivors continue with their lives after the accident without any Counselling. Finally, government also needs to build proper houses for its citizens, by so doing we would not face these challenges.

Where to from here in your personal life?

I would like to achieve more in life and be there for my family. I also want to share my experiences with people especially kids so as to avoid incidents of this nature. I would also like to do motivational speaking and uplift the spirit of other burn survivors who feel they have nothing to achieve in life.

What advice can you give to people in your situation?

Burn survivors should not lose hope and give up on their dreams and aspirations. They need to participate in all activities just like everyone else, after all burn survivors have rights too.

Story and picture by Phumzile Nteyi, Communications Co-ordinator Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa (PASASA)

PASASA welcomes the new Energy Minister

On behalf of the Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa (PASASA) I would like to welcome the new Minister of Safety, Ms Dipuo Peters to her new portfolio. Ms Peters takes the reins from the former minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Buyelwa Sonjica who has since been given a new portfolio, Ministry of Water Affairs and Environmental Affairs.



We particularly welcome President Jacob Zuma's creation of a new Ministry devoted to energy because energy issues need to be dealt with more efficiently and quickly. I am one of the fortunate people to have worked with Ms. Peters and her office in the Northern Cape in 2004 when they hosted the Northern Cape Growth & Economic Development Summit. I know Ms. Peters as a very down-to-earth, humble person who spends most of her time listening to the concerns of the people. During the time we were planning the summit, she had numerous meetings with various stakeholders. Even during the summit, community members found it so easy to talk to her because she is so accessible.

PASASA's mission is to promote the safe use of paraffin whilst it is being used by households. We work in poor and informal

settlements across South Africa where the majority of poor people use paraffin as one of their main energy sources. More than 11 million South Africans come into contact with paraffin everyday because it is a form of energy that is cheap and accessible to them.

In 2007, PASASA held a series of paraffin users' summit throughout the country where they agreed on a set of household energy proposals and handed these over to the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME). The intention was to ensure that their voices were included in any policy process that would impact on them. With winter upon us, media reports of energy related fire injuries are increasing and will continue to increase. It is clear that the consumers of energy and indeed the whole public lacks information about how they can make themselves safe from energy related injuries.

Thousands of them die every year from related fires and injuries. Many more, especially children, get injured from drinking paraffin. It is for these reasons that we will engage her ministry to discuss practical measures on how to put in place a household energy safety strategy. We believe this issue requires the attention of the minister and her department. Addressing household energy safety challenges will save the state millions of rands that get spent in treating injuries and re-building people's lives after disasters. We as the Association would like to assist the new minister in any way we can in addressing the challenges posed by paraffin and its appliances in our beloved country, South Africa.

*Phumzile Nteyi
Communications Co-ordinator
Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa*

PetroSA joins membership of PASASA

PetroSA, the Petroleum Oil and Gas Corporation of South Africa (Pty) Ltd is the latest refiner of illuminating paraffin (kerosene) and member of the South African Petroleum Industries Association (SAPIA) to join the Paraffin Safety Association. The Paraffin Safety Association is immensely proud to welcome PetroSA as a member.



All of the current members of SAPIA are now also members of the Paraffin Safety Association. They include BP, CHEVRON, ENGEN, PetroSA, SASOL, SHELL and TOTAL. SAPIA was established in July 1994 to represent the common interests of the South African Petroleum refining and marketing industry in South Africa.



Muzwandile Mseleku of PetroSA

The Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa was established in 1996 by the members of SAPIA at that time. They resolved to address, by means of an annual, self-imposed levy, the unacceptably high number of harmful, domestic, paraffin-related incidents that could no longer be tolerated. The mandate was simple – to promote safety in the domestic use of paraffin. Beside the annual levy, membership entails appoint-

ing a director to serve on Paraffin Safety Association board of directors. The board is primarily responsible for overall governance and determining policy and strategy for the organisation.

PetroSA has recently joined because their direct participation in the South African paraffin market is relatively new. Their membership is very strategic for paraffin and household energy safety for a number of reasons. It is state owned and the state has a keen interest in addressing the energy needs of the low-income households. Secondly, PetroSA has the potential to vastly increase hydrocarbon refining capacity of South Africa, thereby increasing their contribution to the future and security of supply of

paraffin and other energy resources.

The annual contribution to the Paraffin Safety Association by all of the Petroleum companies is separate from their individual corporate social investment initiatives. Various petroleum companies also conduct their own paraffin safety campaigns either independently or in collaboration with the Association.

The Paraffin Safety Association's mission is to ensure the safe use of paraffin, as part of the energy mix for domestic users. We will achieve this through strategic partnerships, research and promotion of safe practices from the point of manufacture to the point of consumption of domestic energy.

**Siyanamkela ngokusemthethweni
PetroSA!
We officially welcome you
PetroSA!**

EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Reports and activities from Free State, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga Provinces

News Update



Are you from any of these provinces? Do you have anything to report relating to paraffin safety? Then call us, Nhlanhla or Naomi. We are here to address your concerns.



Nhlanhla Mdadane



Naomi Gaines

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"Victimisation and stigmatisation of burn survivors"

KZN Schools Debate Contest

PASASA together with their partners ENGEN were pleased to hand-over books to Zwelihle Secondary in Umlazi in February this year. The school was awarded these books as second prize after participating in a debate the last year. The debate was aimed at giving a platform to schools to discuss the plight of burn survivors, highlight their challenges, needs and grievances especially of school going children. The books are to be used in their school library. Learners were ecstatic to have access to so many books that address various learning subjects.

Delighted principal, Mrs Msani, and her proud teachers took the opportunity to congratulate the participating team again. This was followed by educational talks to the learners or paraffin safety reinforcing what they had learned previously.



Proud learners of Zwelihle Secondary in KZN displaying books donated by ENGEN to their school

Together we make a difference

The use of paraffin as a household energy source in South Africa results in unacceptably high levels of harmful human, financial and economic consequences.

Every year people die and thousands lose their homes and possessions when deadly fires sweep through informal settlements. Shockingly, it is mainly children who die or are scarred. In fact, more South African children, between the ages of one to four years, die of burns than any other unnatural cause. This situation is simply unacceptable. This is why PASASA is working with government, emergency services, communities and other interested stakeholders in preventing these fires and burns rather than focussing on treatment.

This year PASASA is focusing on initiatives in the Msunduzi municipality, and zooming in on ward 29 (Swapo). It is gratifying that many key stakeholders in the area are willing to work with us on efforts to better the lives of those who are bound by unfortunate circumstances.

Research findings conducted in Swapo late last year, showed that the need for household energy safety is of paramount



Representatives from various provincial government departments brainstorming collaborative ideas to address paraffin challenges in Swapo

importance. More than 90% of the houses are in poor condition and are inadequate for family needs and different weather conditions. 99% of these homes use paraffin, and electricity is non-existent.

Burns and fires are the most common harmful energy related incidents in the area.

Various misconceptions were identified and these lead to the practice of risky behaviours which result in the occurrence of harmful incidents.

These destructive incidents can be avoided and together with partnerships, we will jointly counter the devastation. *Naomi Gaines*

NORTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Reports and activities from Gauteng, Limpopo and North West Provinces

News Update



Are you from any of these provinces? Do you have anything to report relating to paraffin safety? Then call us Phillipine and Johannes. We are here to address your concerns.



Phillipine Mahlangu



Johannes Baleka

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PASASA's Northern Region office conducted a Baseline survey in Sunrise Park

During the month of December 2008, the Northern Region office worked with 25 Disaster Management Volunteers to conduct a baseline survey in Sunrise Park to find out about paraffin usage in the area. Sunrise Park is situated near Paardekraal shaft of Anglo Platinum Mine in Rustenburg.

About 300 households were visited and most residents work at the surrounding mines. This informal settlement area is characterized by improper roads, a lack of sanitation and no running water. Residents rely on a single tap that services the entire area. Extended families are cramped in small units that should house fewer family members. This is an area that has experienced several

fire outbreaks where people have lost their lives and possessions. Due to difficult access to the area, Fire and Emergency Services are unable to reach affected areas on time.

Residents mostly use paraffin as an energy source for cooking, heating and lighting. Other energy sources like gas, wood and electricity (which is illegally connected) are used. Blasting, noise and dust from the nearby mines are considered to be a health hazard to the community living close to the mines. Most children do not attend school instead they roam around while others do household chores. Children are the ones who go and buy paraffin at Spaza shops using any available bottle.

Outcome of the Survey

- Residents use paraffin daily for cooking, heating and lighting
- Paraffin is stored in various bottles like milk, juice, cold drink and liquor bottles which poses great danger for children who can mistake it thinking it is either water, cool drink or milk
- All bottles used to buy paraffin are not labeled. Volunteers taught and demonstrated to the residents about ways of labeling their paraffin bottles in order to separate them from beverages and water
- Some residents still use the outlawed wick paraffin stoves but they say these are no longer available in most of the big stores.

PASASA Spreads Message of Safety

The Northern Region's office participated in the Mom & Baby Edushow in February this year. This show which intends to visit 19 townships across five provinces over a period of 24 weeks was meant to educate mothers and caregivers of young children about various subjects relating to mother and child health. We got involved because we wanted to spread our paraffin safety messages to the mothers and participants.

Along with all the organisations invited to address the audience speakers, including the Department of Health, City of Jo'burg and the local radio station PASASA used the opportunity to raise awareness about Household Energy Safety. In addition, PASASA was afforded an opportunity to speak to the listeners of Alex FM about paraffin safety, contamination, indoor pollution, importance of labeling, storage of paraffin, poisoning, burn injuries and illegal and unsafe paraffin appliances that are flooding our market. Some people from the audience won themselves some give-aways and they responded positively to the call.

The next area we worked in was an informal settlement called Zandspruit. It has a high number of people who use paraffin for cooking, lighting and heating. They shared



heart-wrenching stories about fires caused by unsafe paraffin appliances. Nomfundo Nodada and Nomathemba Phangelela were burn survivors who were willing to share their stories. Nomfundo Nodada encountered her misfortune when a paraffin stove she was using exploded. She spent more than six months at the Baragwanath Hospital. The same thing happened to Nomathemba who woke up in a hospital bed after five days. Both ladies are being teased in their community and people ill-treat them. We used the opportunity to address the participants on the need to embrace burn

survivors.

The Project Director of the Mom and Baby Edushow, Khanyi Mjwara said: "60 out of 600 children under the age of five die from preventable causes due to lack of knowledge. This show is meant to empower mothers with information so as to decrease child mortality because South Africa is a country with one of the highest number of children that die out of preventable causes." Through our involvement with the Mom and Baby campaign, we reached new audiences in new areas.

National Standards, regulations and paraffin appliances in South Africa

1. Introduction

Faulty, poor quality and sub-standard paraffin appliances are widely believed to be the main culprits in uncontrolled fires in low income households and informal settlements. They are possibly only rivalled by candles in their culpability. Yet the right to safety and a safe environment are fundamental human and consumer rights. It is estimated that about 40% of households in South Africa use paraffin (kerosene) as an energy carrier to meet some part of their domestic energy needs so the issue affects many consumers.

A process has been initiated to ensure that a safer system for the domestic consumption of paraffin is introduced in South Africa. The development and enforcement of compulsory regulations is an essential platform for ensuring that the system of using paraffin for household energy is safe.

This article explains national standards and regulations as they apply to paraffin and paraffin appliances.

2. What are National Standards and Regulations?

South African National Standards are the responsibility of the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). This is explained in their key document; Standards for Standards Part 1: The development of national standards and other normative documents (SANS1-1:2003) from where the explanation below is derived.

- The aims of standards include;
- improving the quality (fitness for purpose) of goods and services;
 - maintaining and improving the quality of life of society, by paying attention to such matters as safety, health and the environment, and by providing a basis for legislation needed for the protection of the public.

A South African National Standard is a normative document which provides rules or guidelines for the common and repeated use of goods or services aimed at achieving an optimum degree of order in a given context. A standard is established by a committee by consensus which is subjected to public enquiry and comment, ratified by the Standards Approval Committee and published by Standards South Africa.

A standard describes a minimum acceptable level of performance that can be expected from a good or service that claims to meet that standard.

Safety and quality standards are drawn up for any product or service according to the Standards Act, 1993 (Act No. 29 of

1993) and are called South African National Standards (SANS). Complying with National Standards is voluntary unless the minister of Trade and Industry declares all or part of a standard to be compulsory, in terms of the Standards Act. When a standard, or part of a standard, is declared to be compulsory by the Minister of Trade and Industry it becomes a “**compulsory specification**” or **Regulation**.

Currently, the SANS 1906:2006 standard for non pressure stoves and heaters is the only paraffin appliance standard that is compulsory. It became a regulation with effect from 1 January 2007 by Government Gazette notice No. R. 1091 (Government Gazette 29338) of 1 November 2006 and as such is known as VC9089.

3. Key Players and their roles in Standards Regulation

- The **South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)**, the gatekeeper for standards, promotes and maintains standards to protect consumers and the environment (www.sabs.co.za).
- The **National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS)**, is responsible to the Minister of Trade and Industry for the administration of technical regulations including Compulsory Specifications based on Standards that protect human health and safety, and the environment. It was established in September 2008 (www.nrccs.org.za).
- The Paraffin Safety Association's (**PASASA**) mission is to ensure the safe use of paraffin, as part of the energy mix for domestic users. As such, PASASA assists the SABS and NRCS in development and enforcement of world class household energy standards and advocates for safer standards.

4. A background to Paraffin Appliances and standards

Laboratory Tests conducted on the nine most common paraffin stoves in 2002 revealed that all the stoves failed SABS standards and failed an average of six or more of the SABS codes. The Paraffin Safety Association added in another test to the SABS standards which was to see what the result would be if a paraffin stove was operated for an hour and then knocked over while still operating. All the most commonly used paraffin stoves, non – pressure or wick stoves, immediately erupted in flames.

It was clear that paraffin appliances were unsafe. In addition, it was found that the standards did not adequately address the safety and quality requirements. By 2004 the minister of Minerals and Energy initiated the

process of reviewing the standards of paraffin appliances and regulating these.

4.1 The SANS 1906:2006 – standard for non pressure stoves and heaters

This standard is now a compulsory specification known as **VC9089-2006**. Toward the end of 2007 it became clear that this standard needed improving and a process of review was initiated. The revised standard should be out for public comment soon. Only two heaters and one stove have received letters of authority indicating they comply with the requirements of VC9089-2006. They are;

1. The Goldair Paraffin Heater Model RD-85A imported from China by Nu-World Industries (Homologation number - AZ/1906/2006/0803),
2. The Panda Heater (Homologation no. AZ/1906/2006/901)
3. The Panda Stove (Homologation no. AZ/1906/2006/0809)

The Paraffin Safety Association has identified a number of non pressure appliances being sold illegally. It is apparent that these appliances are imported from countries like China and India where standards are not as stringent.

4.2 SANS 1243:2007 – standard for pressurised paraffin-fuelled appliances

Compliance with this standard remains voluntary but the NRCS has indicated that they intend making this standard a compulsory specification in 2009. The process has been delayed by the revision to the SANS1906 standard. The Parasafe stove is the only pressurised paraffin-fuelled appliance identified on the market to have a device for self extinguishing if knocked over – a basic safety requirement. Although manufacturers and distributors of non-pressure appliances have the option of certification under SABS Commercial to demonstrate that they comply with the SANS1243 standard, none have done so at present.

4.3 Other paraffin appliances

Beside heaters and stoves, other paraffin appliances include lamps, refrigerators, blow torches and water heaters. The most common other appliance is definitely the wick based lamp or lantern. No standard has yet been developed for these appliances because they were considered a lower risk than the cooking and heating appliances.

5. What do Appliance standards cover?

The primary safety critical features addressed by the non pressure standard included the prevention of fuel leakage, self extinguishing if knocked over, ensuring the

fuel in the tank does not get too hot, prevention of harmful emissions to the atmosphere, stability and durability of the appliance, sustained power output over time, the appliance cannot be filled when in use, will not burst into flames when knocked over, will not burn the user when the controls are touched and safety instructions with pictograms are included in the packaging.

6. How to identify appliances that meet standards and regulations

- **For non-pressure stoves and heaters:** Section 3.4 of the **VC9089-2006** compulsory specification schedule states that the holder of a letter of authority must ensure that the "homologation number" allocated to an appliance that conforms must be marked on every appliance and on the packaging for identification at point of sale. The holder of the homologation shall ensure that the homologation number as referred to in paragraph 3.2 is marked on every appliance conforming to a type homologated under the Specification or on its packaging, so as to be visible at the point of sale. This information can be verified by contacting the NRCS.
- **For pressurised paraffin-fuelled appliances:** Until this standard becomes a compulsory specification this will remain difficult for the public. The SABS Commercial Division does provide an SABS stamp of approval to manufacturers

or suppliers who wish to register for it. SABS approval is costly and so companies are reluctant to get approval unless they are forced to because their customers insist on it before buying their products. To date, no pressurised paraffin-fuelled appliance has been certified by SABS commercial.

- **Confusion about passing a standards test:** Some companies claim their appliance has passed the laboratory test for the relevant standard (SANS1906 or SANS1243). This is not the same as SABS approval from SABS Commercial where standards are concerned or NRCS approval in the case of compulsory specifications. It is merely a step in the approval process as misleads the public. Passing a test means a single, sample appliance has been tested and deemed to have passed a relevant SANS standard as tested by a laboratory recognised by the SABS and NRCS. Getting approval is much more stringent and includes regular annual inspections of the manufacturing process and testing of sample appliances.

7. How to raise Customer concerns?

If it is suspected that compulsory specifications are being ignored or not adhered to, the concern can be raised by any member of the public or any juristic person with the NRCS. They will then investigate and take necessary action. See the annexure for contact details in this regard.

In the case of compliance being claimed against a voluntary standard such as the SANS1243 for pressurised paraffin-fuelled appliances, this can be verified with SABS Commercial.

8. Recommendations and conclusions

It is essential that consumers are informed and use their purchasing power to insist that manufacturers, distributors and suppliers of appliances adhere to existing safety standards. Local and provincial government Disaster Management and Emergency Services should use their influence and purchasing power to support the SABS standards and their enforcement.

If any government official or member of the public discovers;

1. A non-pressure appliance for sale with no homologation number on the packaging or the appliance, they can assume it is illegal and report the matter to the NRCS.
2. A non-pressure appliance for sale with a homologation number, they can ask the NRCS to verify its authenticity.
3. A pressurised paraffin-fuelled appliance for sale, they should insist on certification of compliance against the SANS1243 standard from SABS Commercial from the manufacturer or supplier in question. If the seller insists there is compliance, this can be verified with SABS Commercial.

Household energy safety is everybody's business!
Glenn Truan

Standards that apply to the paraffin consumption system

There are a number of standards that apply to the domestic use of paraffin.

Fuel Specification Standard

The SANS1913:2008 Kerosene for domestic heating and illuminating. Although this standard is voluntary, the petroleum companies have undertaken to self regulate in this matter.

Transport and storage of dangerous goods

The standards pertaining to paraffin in this category:

- SANS 1518, Transport of dangerous goods – Design requirements for road vehicles and portable tanks.
- SANS 10229-1, Transport of dangerous goods – Packaging and large packaging for road and rail transport – Part 1: Packaging.
- SANS 10232-1, Transport of dangerous goods – Emergency information systems – Part 1: Emergency information system for road transport.
- SANS 10233 (SABS 0233), Transportation of dangerous goods – Intermediate bulk containers.
- SANS10265:1999, Classification and labelling of dangerous substances preparations for sale and handling.
- SANS 10234, Globally Harmonized System of classification and labelling of

chemicals (GHS).

Standards for Paraffin Appliances

There are presently two standards for paraffin appliances;

- SANS 1906:2006 Standard for non pressure stoves and heaters – this standard became a regulation on 1 January 2007. It is therefore a compulsory specification.
- SANS 1243:2007 Standard for pressurized paraffin-fuelled appliances. Although this standard is currently voluntary, the NRCS has initiated the process of making this standard a compulsory specification.

Key Contact Details

- SABS: Private Bag X19, Pretoria 0001 Tel 012 428 7911, www.sabs.co.za
- NRCS: Private Bag X25, Brooklyn 0075, Tel 012 428 5000, www.nrcs.org.za
- PASASA Safety Information Share call line 0861-22-44-22, www.paraffinsafety.org

More SABS contacts:

For information on certification of voluntary standards compliance;

- **SABS Commercial:** Mr Malcolm Vowles, Manager: Certification - Mechanical, Metallurgy and Safety Industry,

Tel 012 428-6048

email: Malcolm@sabs.co.za

- **SABS Crimeline:** fraudulent SABS approval claims; Call: 0800212246 (forensic accounting company - Volker Wattrus and Mkhize)
- **SABS Standards Information Centre,** Information and purchasing of South African National Standards and Compulsory Specifications; Tel 012 428 6666, email: info@sabs.co.za

More NRCS Contacts:

Applications for homologation and Letter of Authority (LOA);

- Mrs Tando Magolego, Manager: Approvals, Tel 012 428-6375, e-mail: magolet@nrcs.org.za
 - Mr. S.F. Odendaal, Technical Specialist, Tel 012 428- 6065, e-mail: odendasf@nrcc.org.za
- Consumer recourse/customer concerns;
- **Inland provinces:** Mrs Emmah Monyanga, Manager: Inspections, Tel 012 428-6502, e-mail: ngobenie@nrccs.org.za
 - **Coastal Provinces:** Mr Hendrik F. de Kock, Manager: Regions, Tel 012 428-6585, e-mail: dekokkh@nrccs.org.za

SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Reports and activities from Eastern Cape,
Northern Cape and Western Cape Provinces

News Update



Are you from any of these provinces? Do you have anything to report relating to paraffin safety? Then call me Felicity. I am here to address your concerns.



Felicity Mbambani

TELEPHONE:

021 671 5767

FAX:

021 671 0233

Western Cape:

School holiday campaign in Masiphumelele

The Paraffin Safety Association in partnership with Disaster Management, the Living Hope Project, an NGO based in Masiphumelele held a School Holiday Campaign in Masiphumelele in December 2008. Their main objective was to educate learners and the community about drugs and alcohol abuse; to promote HIV/Aids awareness and to educate them about paraffin safety. We felt that most learners were at home without supervision and most of them use paraffin stoves in their household, so it was crucial for them to be educated on the



safe use of paraffin appliances to prevent paraffin-related accidents. Parents, educators and learners from a local primary school also attended the event that was held at the local hall. PASASA had an opportunity to present and exhibit their material on paraffin and household energy safety.

Jamboree in Masiphumelele

The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport invited various departments and organisations to participate in a mini-Jamboree in February 2009. The objective of the Jamboree was to inform communities about service delivery and to take government services closer to the communities. In addition, the Jamboree serviced multiple communities from a central venue in Masiphumelele. The Southern Region's office of PASASA was invited by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) to exhibit and join other government departments such as the South African Social Services Agency (SASSA), Health, Social Development, South African Police Services (SAPS), Environmental Affairs and Tourism and Red Door who also disseminated their useful information to the community.

Early Childhood Development Workshop, Khayelitsha, Dec 2008

More than 200 early childhood educare centre staff attended a fire safety workshop organized by the City Health Department in conjunction with PASASA to diminish fire related incidents at educare centres in the Khayelitsha area. This workshop was aimed at empowering educare centres managers and educators with knowledge to improve the conditions of their surroundings.

During the workshop, speakers from St

Johns First Aid, Baytech Fire and the Paraffin Safety Association shared their tips and experiences about preventing and combating fire, treating the injured and caring for them.

Sibongile Zenzile who survived a fire and had her face disfigured, explained her anguish to the audience. PASASA promised to train staff in safety awareness in all the 232 care centres in Khayelitsha.



Eastern Cape:

Paraffin Safety Awareness Campaign

A Paraffin Safety Awareness Campaign was hosted in Cambridge, in East London in



Red Cross team doing a presentation on Burns

October 2008. A shack burning demonstration by the Department of Fire Services illustrated how quickly a paraffin fire spreads inside a shack. Various stakeholders including Disaster Management, Law Enforcement, South African Police Services, Link FM and others graced this occasion. The exercise had a huge impact on raising awareness in the area.

A Readiness Campaign

An awareness campaign on fire prevention was held in Arcadia Port Elizabeth after a family died in a shack due to a paraffin-related fire in November 2008. George Cornelius, one of our Paraffin Safety Champions in the area, felt that it was

crucial for the community to be educated on household energy safety and how to act quickly when there's an emergency. He conducted presentations on Fire, Burns and Indoor Air Pollution. The Campaign was concluded with a symbolic tree being planted on the spot where the tragedy took place.



Standing where the family died

PASASA launches its Winter Campaign in Phillipi, Cape Town

Phillipi is one of the areas in Cape Town that is prone to winter fires. This poverty-stricken area is also home to thousands of people who are unemployed and living in informal dwellings and RDP houses. In March this year, a national newspaper reported a heart-wrenching story of a heroic mum who burned to death in Phillipi while trying to save her kids. Thandiswa Notswi, her sister Andiswa and two kids were burnt to ashes when a paraffin stove exploded in their one roomed home.

On May 22, the Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa (PASASA) together with its partners, the Department of Social Development, Childsafe and Ward 34 councillor, Bongani Mini and his committee launched its 12 weeks Winter Campaign dubbed: "Be Safe this Winter". This campaign will primarily focus on empowering individuals and communities to improve their household energy safety through information and a call to action.

This year's campaign will be spearheaded by a Radio campaign with a specific focus on radio stations that broadcast to

a wide listenership across all nine provinces. Paraffin safety adverts complemented by interviews will be broadcast on Umhlobo Wenene, Ukhozi FM and Motswedding FM respectively. Community radio stations in areas where we are involved in projects on the ground will also be utilized as we intend to take our messages to more than 20,000,000 listeners across the country. The second campaign, a subset of the larger radio campaign will be carried out in various informal settlements across the country. The Bsafe@home campaign will concentrate on identifying and transforming an informal settlement house and make it safe when using energy sources inside at all times. Two houses that pose a safety risk have been identified with the assistance of the local ward committee. After the official launch, PASASA staff and the media contingent



PASASA's MD, Patrick Kulali (centre) launching the Winter Campaign

when using her illegal paraffin stove. This launch was attended by representatives of the Department of Social Development, Childsafe, and representatives of various community organisations, ward committee members and members of the media.

PASASA would like to thank the following media houses who showed great support in the plight of the poor during our launch day:

- Daily Sun newspaper
- SAFM radio
- Primedia Broadcasting
- Radio Kingfisher
- Die Burger
- Radio Ikwewezi

visited the two households that will be transformed in Phillipi on **June 01 - National Paraffin Safety Day**.

One household is a home to a 71 year old bed-ridden mother looked after by her mentally disabled nephew. The second household is home to Zukiswa Tom who lives with her partner and 3 year old baby in an informal house without a window to allow fresh air inside

- Bush radio
- Radio Zibonele
- City Vision community newspaper
- Vukani community newspaper

These two households will be unveiled on June 01, National Paraffin Safety Day and we will give the details of the revamping in our next edition.

Phumzile Ntetyi

Be sure to tune in to these stations for the Paraffin Safety Talk, tackling different topics:

| Dates | Topic | Umhlobo Wenene FM | Ukhozi FM | Motswedding FM |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Jun 02 | Role of PASASA | 11h30 | 10h15 | 10h30 |
| Jun 16 | Packaging and Labelling | 11h30 | 10h15 | 10h30 |
| Jun 30 | Stoves | 11h30 | 10h15 | 10h30 |
| Jul 14 | Maintenance of Paraffin Appliances | 11h30 | 10h15 | 10h30 |
| Jul 28 | Rights of an Energy User | 11h30 | 10h15 | 10h30 |
| Aug 11 | Revision | 11h30 | 10h15 | 10h30 |

Social Development - Promoting, Protecting and Strengthening Families

"15 May 2009 marked the 15th anniversary of International Family day. This global event reaffirms the fundamental and central role of the family in society. It calls on us to acknowledge, affirm, and celebrate families, but equally reminds us that many families need help and support in fulfilling the awesome responsibility they carry. More importantly, it challenges us to reflect on what we are doing to strengthen and preserve families".

This three day Expo was held at the Belhar Indoor Sports Complex, Cape Town. It was attended by community members from in and around the Peninsula. The Paraffin

Safety Association and other organisations exhibited at this remarkable event.

Day 1: Keynote address by the new MEC about purpose & objectives of the Expo. Great entertainment was part of the deal.

Day 2: Saw intense discussions around strategies and programmes that promote the strengthening of families, challenges facing youth in communities, succession planning for families in the era of HIV and AIDS.

Day 3: An Interdenominational service brought a grand closure. MEC's closing remarks: "Let us together start the work of developing a provincial plan of action for



Mornay Pretorius, Acting Director, Office of HOD and new MEC for the DOSD, Dr. Ivan Meyer

families and let us get together a year from now to measure our progress."

Phumzile Ntetyi

'Illegal' unsafe stoves put lives at risk

Article first published in Yukani, a community newspaper, Cape Town on the 28th May, 2009

In the heart of the poverty stricken Philippi community, Mamfene Dasi lies helplessly in her make-shift bed ready to welcome visitors to her two-room house. However, an unpleasant smell that comes through the door says it all before she opens her mouth, to tell her agonising tale.

Two make-shift beds and a wooden couch, all covered in dirty blankets bare the testimony of the hard and challenging life for this bedridden grandmother of two.

A desk which resembles a table is placed in front of the bed and a dirty white plastic chair is covered with a pillow to provide some comfort to the visitors. But a swarm of flies makes one's stay at the house unpleasant. Pieces of different colour carpet cover the semilittered floor to provide some semblance of warmth during the winter's freezing temperatures.

As a media contingent comes through the door to learn about her plight, the 71-year-old struggles to wake up. After a protracted battle she eventually comes to and quickly tries to hide some of the items lying around the house.

But not only is Ms Dasi's life uncomfortable, it is unsafe too. She is one of many in the country who use what the Paraffin Safety Association (PSA) describes as an "illegal stove" putting her life at risk. To make her situation even more worrying is the fact that the stove is largely operated by her mentally disabled nephew, Sidwell, 24. The pair spend



PSA's Patrick Kulati with Mamfene Dasi and her unsafe stove.

a lot of time together, with Sidwell rendering all the necessary support for his ailing aunt.

"He is my real guardian," boasted Ms Dasi. "Without him I can't do anything. He cooks for me, but I have to keep a sharp eye on him. Sometimes I just ask him to bring the stove closer to me so that I can cook, but he has to be here all the time because I can not

move without him."

However, Ms Dasi has no clue about the risks of using the stove. She labels it as the most affordable in the market, especially for somebody like her who relies on a government grant to support her two grandchildren with everything from food to clothing and school fees.

Her only daughter died, leaving her with virtually nothing, except two children to raise. "I am really struggling, but what can I do? I battle to even go outside," said Ms Dasi.

Not so long ago, she bought another "illegal stove" after encountering endless problems with her old one which she still keeps in the house.

The old stove is an example of what the PSA is trying to remove from households across the country. It has lost its original colour and to cook something she puts in small pieces of stones on top and then a pot of food, making it more dangerous.

"This is exactly what we are talking about," said Patrick Kulati, managing director of PSA. "We want to do away with this."

He said the Association will be visiting Ms Dasi's house on National Paraffin Safety Day on Monday June 1 to revamp it and make it a "model" for the Philippi community. As part of their refurbishment of Ms Dasi's house, he said they will provide everything to ensure that she is safe this winter and to prevent an unnecessary loss of lives.

Story and photo by Thulani Magazi



PASASA's Communications Co-ordinator, Phumzile Ntseki showcasing the problematic area in Mamfene's cooking area. It is imperative to always have a safe distance between the appliance and flammable materials. Note how close the curtain is to the stove



Zukiswa Tom in her small cooking area and an illegal stove

Illegal paraffin stoves - usage & risk

The South African National Household Energy Surveillance System (SANHESS) is actively collecting data at 11 clinics and hospitals across South Africa (Figure 1)



When looking at 3142 patients attending these health institutions because of energy-related injuries, 22% were seeking treatment after suffering burns caused by a flame. The main energy source associated with flame burns is paraffin. In fact, among 506 patients who suffered from such burns, 47% are paraffin-related, 20% wood-related and 13% to candle-related. In light of these findings, it is imperative that PASASA understands the context in which burns occur so that interventions are developed to prevent injuries caused by a paraffin flame.

The data gathered during the 15 energy-related household surveys conducted by PASASA in informal settlements and townships in South Africa provide valuable insights.

Paraffin Stove Usage

The vast majority (85%) of the 3036 informal settlement and township households surveyed use a non-pressurised paraffin appliance or a wick-based stove. Panda-branded stoves are by far the most common. Sikeni, Supergo, Tiger, Primus, Giant, Flame, Hippo and Eagle paraffin stoves were also owned by a small portion of the households. Very few households mentioned using a legal paraffin stove.

Two in three households continue to cook on the same paraffin stove for more than a year. The condition of an illegal paraffin stove used regularly for more than one year is likely to be very bad and it would increase

Figure 1: SANHESS Health Care Institutions



the risk of causing a fire. Our staff have visited many households and found that these illegal stoves show many signs of wear such as: rust, corrosion, instability, missing parts and incomplete burning of paraffin. Unfortunately, households using the same paraffin stove for more than one year fail to recognise the risks that they are exposing themselves to. In fact, 67% of 969 households mentioned that their stove still operates optimally after one year! Moreover, only 1 in 4 of the 3132 households surveyed reported that they send their paraffin stove for repair if needed.

The Risks of Using Illegal Paraffin Stoves

In addition to the sub-standard safety features of the illegal stoves, risky usage of

paraffin stoves is common in informal settlements and townships across South Africa. In fact, about 1 in 5 of 3212 households experienced a fire at home. More than 60% of the fire incidents were caused by a paraffin stove (Figure 2). Either the stove was knocked over (23%), left unattended (2%) or had exploded (38%).

The legal stoves approved by National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) are followed with, among others, the following two safety mechanisms:

- If the paraffin stove is knocked over, it extinguishes itself automatically.
- The paraffin kept in the stoves' tank will not reach a temperature at which it could explode.

Therefore, if such legal stoves were the only ones available and used in South Africa, the vast majority of paraffin fires would be prevented. A proportion of the burn injuries caused by paraffin flames would also be prevented.

At a recent launch of the NRCS in the Western Cape, Mr Moses Moeletsli, the acting CEO, reported that over 20 000 illegal paraffin appliances have been confiscated across the country.

Availability of Legal Paraffin Stoves

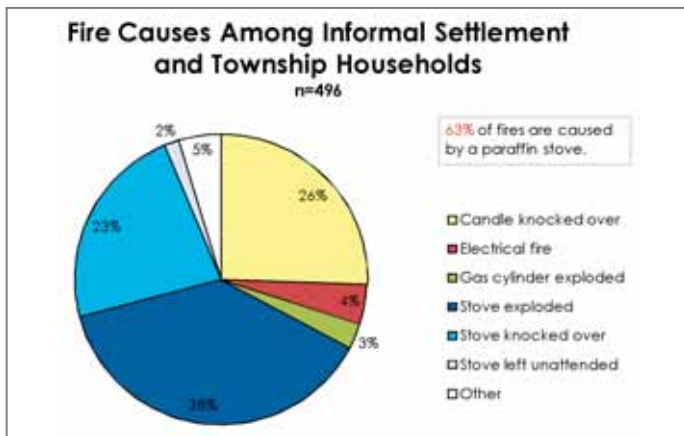
Just under 70% of the 2229 households surveyed are willing to pay more for a safer, legal paraffin stove. However, most households are not aware that a safer, legal, non-pressurised paraffin stove is currently available on the market. According to PASASA's visits of 141 stores selling paraffin in South Africa, the legal "New Safe" Panda stove is available in only 14% of them (1 in 7 stores).

Conclusion

Illegal paraffin stoves and their unsafe usage in informal settlements and townships across South Africa are prevalent. This places households at a higher risk of experiencing fires and burns caused by these illegal stoves. Since most paraffin stove users are willing to pay more for a safe, legal paraffin stove, it is paramount that illegal paraffin stoves are removed from the market and the availability of legal paraffin appliances be enhanced.

Genevieve Prud'homme

Figure 2: Fire Causes Among Informal Settlement and Township Households



How to Prevent A Fire by using Paraffin Appliances Safely

Many paraffin appliances that are sold in South Africa are of poor quality. They are not safe and when knocked over will burst into flames. So, it is important to know how to use your appliances in the safest way possible.

Before you light the appliance:

- Make sure that there is no damage to any of the parts.
- Replace the wick if it is making smoke.
- Make sure that the appliance is put together properly.
- Put the appliance on a level, flat surface.
- Make sure that the appliance is level. Check this by putting a pan of water on the stove and seeing if the water is level.
- On hot days, BEFORE you light the appliance, FAN the area near the burner or wick to get rid of fumes.

When filling or refilling the appliance:

- Make sure the appliance is OFF and COOL.
- ONLY use PARAFFIN and no other fuel in the appliance. Do not put petrol, methylated spirits, or water in the appliance.
- Always use a FUNNEL to pour paraffin so that you do not spill.
- Fill and refill outside in case you spill.
- CLEAN UP any spilt paraffin because it is a fire risk.

When USING the appliance:

- SWITCH OFF the appliance before you move it. Do not carry or move the appliance when it is ON.
- LET fresh air into the room when you use the appliance to clear smoke and fumes.
- ONLY USE a paraffin stove for cooking and not for heating.
- ONLY USE a paraffin heater for heating and not for cooking.
- Keep anything that can burn at least 1 metre away from paraffin appliances, especially material, curtains, clothes, paper, wallpaper, newspaper.
- READ the instructions on how to use and look after the appliance properly. Follow these instructions carefully.
- MAKE SURE that the paraffin appliance is in good condition and working order. Replace it as soon as you discover that it is faulty.

STORING Paraffin:

Never store paraffin in a container that you've previously stored petrol in. Always store paraffin in a special container with a safety cap that children cannot open. Clearly mark the container 'paraffin'.

THINGS TO CONSIDER FOR THIS WINTER!

1 KEEP PARAFFIN UP AND AWAY WHERE IT IS OUT OF SIGHT AND REACH OF YOUNG CHILDREN

- Paraffin is dangerous. It can kill if not treated properly.
- It is best to keep it **locked away**.
- Store paraffin in its own **special bottle**. Avoid storing it in a cold drink bottle or milk container.
- Put the **cap** of the bottle on after usage.
- Use a **funnel** to pour paraffin. Avoid using a cup. Also put the funnel away after usage.

3 GIVE NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK IF A CHILD SWALLOWS PARAFFIN

- DO NOT give any medicine, traditional medicines, food, milk, or home remedies.
- Provide comfort and support.
- Think of having an emergency plan available to get the child to clinic or hospital.

5 BIG FIRES START WITH A SMALL FLAME

- Turn appliances off when you leave home or go to sleep.
- All fires and appliances must be supervised.
- Place paraffin appliances away from things that can burn.
- Put paraffin appliances on a steady and even surface where they cannot be knocked or pulled over.
- Keep a bucket of dry sand ready to put out paraffin-related fires.

7 ACT FAST TO COOL A BURN

- Stay calm and do not panic.
- Do not put anything on the burn – no butter, oil, lotions or medicines as it will make the burn worse.
- Put the burnt area in cool water for 20 minutes.

2 IF A CHILD SWALLOWS PARAFFIN ACT QUICKLY!

- Do not wait. Get the child to clinic or hospital immediately.
- Give the child nothing to eat or drink.
- Do not make the child vomit.
- If paraffin is spilt on clothing, remove the clothing to avoid breathing in paraffin fumes.
- If just a drop of paraffin gets into the lungs it causes serious damage to the lungs.

4 KEEP THE AIR IN YOUR HOME CLEAN and SAFE

- Let fresh air into the room when you are using a paraffin appliance - fresh air clears the bad fumes.
- Paraffin should be clear in colour, and uncontaminated with any other fuel like petrol, diesel, etc.
- It is a good investment to buy the safest stoves, heaters and lamps as a way of preventing injury and not putting yourselves and others in danger. In this way you can prevent air pollution and fires.

6 IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE:

- Stay calm and do not panic.
- Raise the alarm and get out.
- Call the emergency services. Know where to find their numbers.
- If the building is filled with smoke then crawl low on your hands and knees to get out.
- If your clothes catch fire, then stop, drop and roll over, to put out the flames.
- Keep a bucket of dry sand ready to put out paraffin-related fires.
- Get the person to a hospital or clinic immediately.



Sibongile Zenzile

Sibongile joined this association in September 2008 after she attended our Burn Survivor Imbizo that was held at the OR Tambo Hall in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. This mother of three who has been married for 14 years is assisting PASASA with Data Capturing and she is also an Ambassador for the association. As an ambassador, Sibongile will

be conducting paraffin safety talks at various schools and radio stations.

She has enrolled for a Public Relations course so as to enhance her public speaking capabilities. According to her, she feels great for being part of a humble, hardworking team at PASASA.



Nadeema van der Westhuizen

Another dynamic-humble person who has joined our team is Nadeema van der Westhuizen. A mother of two who hails from Mitchell's Plain will be working in our finance department under the leadership of our Financial Director, Noni Ndema. She has been in the finance industry for

14 years now with various companies. This enthusiastic, hardworking and determined individual is a good team player and gets along well with people of various backgrounds. Nadeema strongly feels her great personality and experience will add value to PASASA with positive inputs.



Cecile Michaels

Cecile, also from Mitchell's Plain, has joined PASASA as a Programmes Assistant at the beginning of 2009. She studied Communication and Drama at The University of the Western Cape where her passion for Theatre and Performance hailed a career as a Company Manager for a Drama Arts Company. Cecile taught English as a

foreign language before joining PASASA and feels that her love for the English language will equip her to bring valuable support to the various Programmes. Cecile sees herself gaining valuable growth and experience within this association. She has already proven her worth as an Afrikaans spokesperson for PASASA.



Noëlla Erasmus

Noëlla is a mother of 2, who resides in the Grassy Park area and is part of the PASASA team and she is employed as a General Assistant and also assists with our Reception. Before joining the company, she worked at Omnigraphics, a company that does striping and name branding for cars. During

her free time she loves to read, watch movies and cook exotic dishes. She considers herself as a very hardworking person and would like to occupy a position in the Finance Department one day.



Johannes Baleka

Joe was born in Atteridgeville, Pretoria. He has been married for 14 years and God has blessed him with three children. In 1985 he moved to Alexandra, where he still lives, because of his political involvement in the area. Living in a poverty-stricken area inspired him and some of his friends to form Tshwarisanang Environmental

Pro-Re-Active Safety Mentors (TEPRASM) in 2006. This is an NGO that tackles community development issues.

He is currently based at our Pretoria office as a City Co-ordinator for Egoli. His mission is to see paraffin-using communities taking ownership of challenges posed by household energy sources.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS

The Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa is proud to announce the presentation of Long Service Awards to Glenn Truran (left) and Haidee Wheatley. Dedicated and conscientious people to the cause of Paraffin Safety and better living conditions for all.



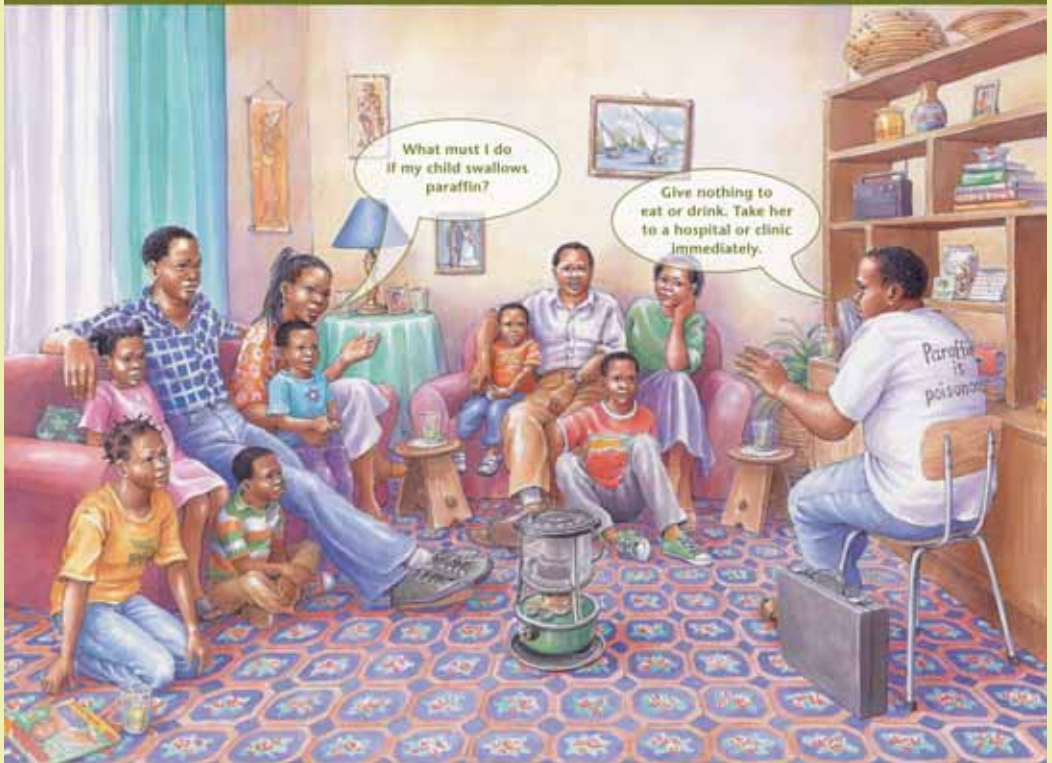
Poster Series: No. 4

In 2005 a set of 11 posters was developed to address the rising incidence of paraffin-related injuries and death. We will publish 1 poster in each newsletter up to the 11th issue.

4

TREAT PARAFFIN POISONING

GIVE NOTHING to eat or drink if a child swallows paraffin



**Do not wait. Get the child to a hospital
or clinic immediately.**

- Paraffin is poisonous. It can kill **if not treated properly**.
- **DO NOT** give any food, milk, medicine or home remedies.
- **DO NOT** make the child vomit – this causes serious damage to the lungs.