



## mineral resources

Department:  
Mineral Resources  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### MINE HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTORATE

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Ref no: Braziers/Mbaulas  
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#### To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madam

#### **RE-ENFORCEMENT OF THE MEASURES OR PROCEDURES THAT ARE ESTABLISHED TO PREVENT PERSONS FROM BEING EXPOSED TO SIGNIFICANT RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH BRAZIER (MBAULAS) DURING WINTER/COLD SEASON**

During the winter season there is always a high number of surface fire incidents that occur as a result of people trying to keep themselves warm.

The Department is greatly concerned about the prevalence of fire incidents caused by braziers (mbaulas) in the recent past. The Department's records reflect the following as some of the mining operations where these incidents have occurred in the recent past:

1. Free State Region - Harmony Gold mine - June 2015
2. Mpumalanga Region - Noordhulp Colliery - June 2015
3. Klerksdorp Region - Anglogold Ashanti - July 2015
4. Western Cape Region - Atlanties Foundries Sand Mine - June 2018

Based on the afore-mentioned incidents and the unfortunate loss of lives, all the mine employers are hereby instructed to ensure that all persons working on surface sites within the mining premises including security personnel are provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that could withstand winter conditions whilst they are at their working places.

Furthermore, the employer is expected to improve supervisory visibility at every working place, especially during night shift, by increasing the number of inspections by the security supervisors, in order to continuously monitor and ensure that employees refrain from keeping themselves warm by using braziers.

It is therefore re-emphasised that mine employers need to increase awareness of the dangers associated with braziers by conducting inspections and taking all reasonable measures to prevent employees from being exposed to significant risks associated with the braziers.

It must be noted that any employer who fails to comply with the requirements of this instruction will face tougher punitive action from the Department. All employees exposed to extreme cold conditions during work must be provided with the appropriate PPE to keep them warm.

Employer must ensure that this letter is communicated to all stakeholders.

Kindly acknowledge receipt.

Yours faithfully



**E.T. NGWENYA**

**PRINCIPAL INSPECTOR OF MINES  
NORTH WEST REGION  
KLERKSDORP**