



# THE EILAND



ISSUE: 11

JULY 2024

*Letter from the editor:*

*During a very wet month, PECID was challenged with a lot of issues specifically flooding which was reported all over Paarden Eiland. In some cases, the flooding was so bad that employees could not get to their workplace. The flooding has also resulted in damage to the roadways and other infrastructure. Paarden Eiland has been fortunate during this time, to have City Departments and other contractors working in the area trying to relieve the frustration and damage caused by the rains and storms. There is still a lot to do, and we would like to ask people to please be patient as they try and address the issues.*

*During this time, the crimes recorded indicated a decrease which could also be contributed to the wet and cold weather as many of our old customers have been given shelter in a prison cell. More displaced people were noted and there has been an increase in amount of open fires found around the area. Our Patrol Officers have had their hands full removing unwanted characters from the area and to ensure that they stay out, specifically to curb the amount of fires.*

*Unsecured properties are still a huge concern and business owners will have to start paying attention to this issue. If the property is not secured and a break-in is recorded, the company at fault will have serious issues with their insurance. Please ensure that your property is secured at all times during the day and night.*

Regards

**Chris Matthee – CID Manager PECID**

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## FACEBOOK POST

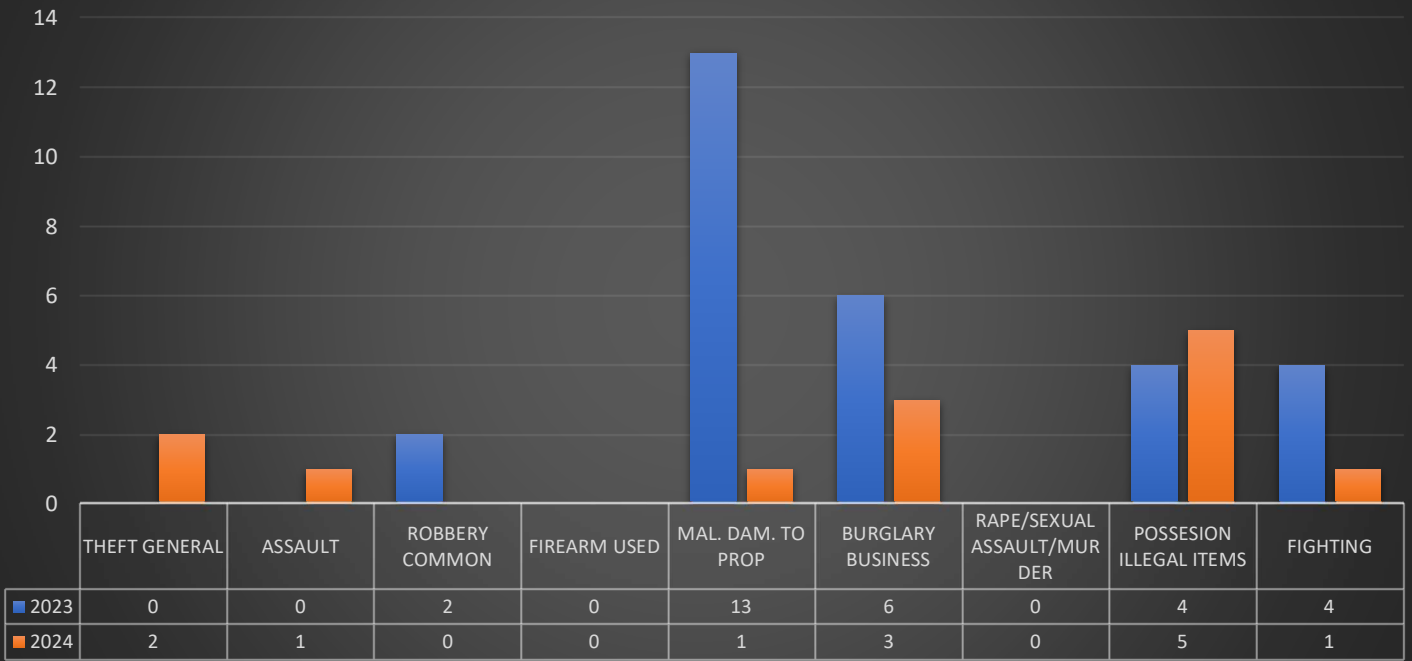
### Gratitude towards the City of Cape Town and Contractors

For the past couple of weeks, while the Western Cape was being bombarded by heavy rain and strong winds, several infrastructure issues arose that needed immediate attention. During this time, the City of Cape Town and Contractors jumped in and were hard at work trying to keep up with all the repairs that needed to be done, both day and night. The issues reported to the City via C3 notifications ranged from potholes/sinkholes, flooding, blocked drains, electrical issues and more. Besides the issues that has already been resolved, there is still a lot to do to ensure that we are in a better position should we experience the same bad weather in future. PECID would like to thank all the departments and staff who assisted during this time for their dedication in answering our concerns and maintaining our infrastructure.

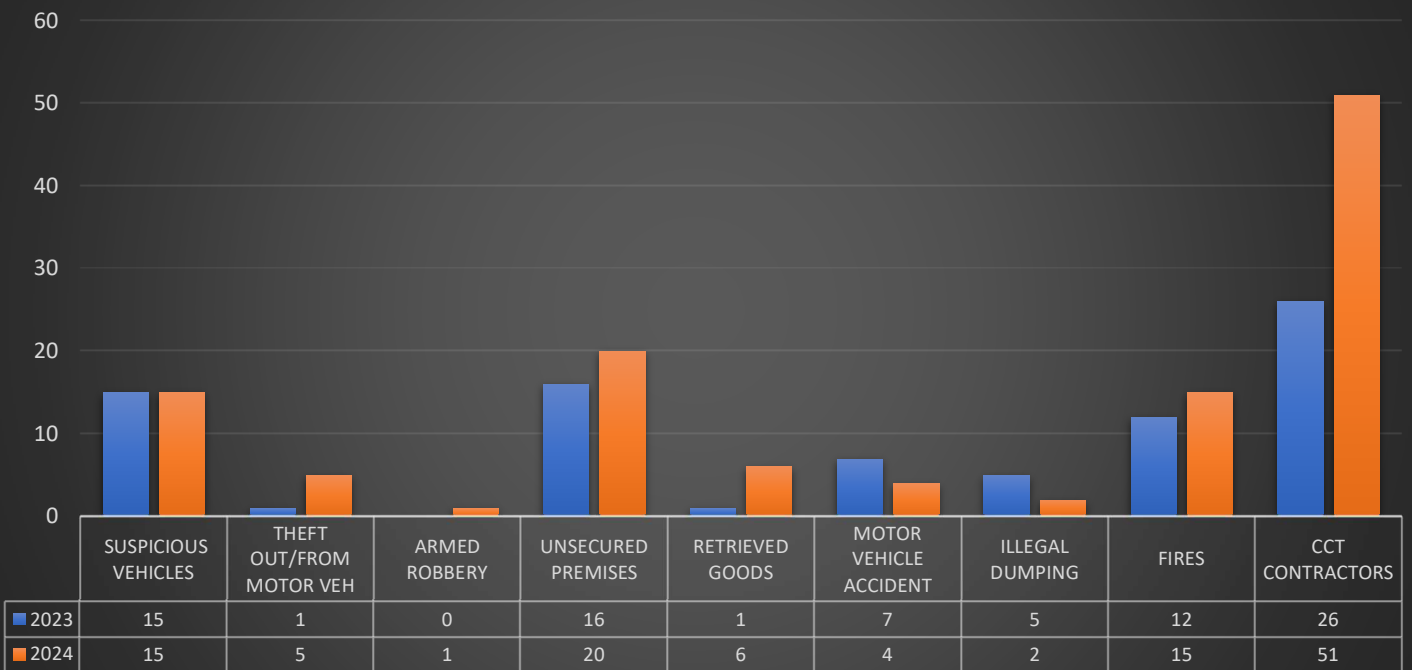


## JULY MONTH INCIDENT BREAKDOWN

**COMBINED JULY 2023 / 2024**



**COMBINED JULY 2023 / 2024**





**SAPS CRIME STATISTICS – CASES OPENED FOR JULY 2024**



	HOUSEBREAKING BUSSINESS
	THEFT OUT / FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
	THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE
	ROBBERY AGGRAVATED



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## CITY OF CAPE TOWN BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT TEAM

### RESTORATION

In a significant boost to our restoration efforts, the Zoarvlei team planted over 500 seedling plants in July, including the critically endangered *Serruria aemula* (strawberry spiderhead), *Thamnochortus spicigerus* (dune thatch reed), and *Elegia tectorum* (dekriet). The planting project coincided with unusually torrential rainfall received this winter, providing the newly planted seedlings with optimal conditions for growth and establishment.

#### Dune thatching reed

*Thamnochortus spicigerus*, or dune thatch reed, is a hardy plant commonly used in traditional thatching for roofing. This species plays a vital role in stabilizing soil and preventing erosion, making it an essential component of our restoration work. Its tall, reed-like structure provides habitat and shelter for various small animals and insects. Additionally, thatching reed is well-adapted to the harsh conditions of the fynbos, thriving in nutrient-poor soils and withstanding periodic fires.

#### Dekriet

*Elegia tectorum*, known as dekriet, is another important species in the fynbos ecosystem. This robust plant is renowned for its ability to thrive in wetland areas, contributing to water filtration and flood control. The dense stands of dekriet create a unique microhabitat that supports a diverse range of wildlife.

The timing of our planting project proved fortuitous, as the seedlings greatly benefited from the unusually heavy rainfall received shortly after planting. The abundant water supply ensured that the young plants were well-hydrated and had a strong start in their new environment. This natural irrigation has been a boost to our restoration efforts, promoting healthy growth and improving the survival rates of the seedlings.

### CAPTURING OF THE GRYSBOK

On July 17, 2024, the Zoarvlei team successfully captured images of the elusive Cape grysbok (*Raphicerus melanotis*) at our restoration site. This remarkable sighting is believed to be a result of our persistent restoration efforts over the past few years. Prior to the restoration, the area was dominated by grassy veld with limited native diversity and high levels of alien and invasive plant species.

Our restoration initiatives focused on reintroducing native shrubs that historically dominated the area before it underwent significant transformation and degradation. These efforts aimed to restore the natural shrubland mosaics that are essential to the fynbos ecosystem. Such mosaics provide necessary cover and food resources for the grysbok and other small antelopes, supporting their survival and promoting biodiversity.

The restoration of native vegetation not only enhances the habitat for wildlife but also contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem. By removing invasive species and encouraging the growth of indigenous plants, we have created a more resilient and balanced environment. This success with the Cape grysbok is a testament to the positive impact of our restoration work and highlights the importance of continued conservation efforts.

### DUMPING OF STYROFOAM

In the middle weeks of July, we made an unsettling discovery: a section of the restoration site was littered with small circular flakes of dumped Styrofoam. The Styrofoam luckily, was contained to the jeep track, but its presence poses a significant threat, particularly due to its size and dispersion.





The Styrofoam flakes, spread over a length of about 30 metres, are especially harmful to the environment and wildlife. These tiny particles are notoriously difficult to remove as they embed themselves in the grass and soil. When ingested by animals, Styrofoam can cause digestive blockages and toxicity, leading to malnutrition or death. Additionally, the breakdown of Styrofoam releases harmful chemicals into the soil and water, disrupting ecosystems and potentially entering the food chain.

The Zoarvlei team faced considerable challenges in removing the Styrofoam. The flakes' small size and wide distribution made manual removal a tedious task. Removal process still ongoing.

#### GRYSBOK



#### RESTORATION



#### STYROFOAM



## SPOTTED IN PAARDEN EILAND / ZOARVLEI

### **The Strawberry Spiderhead**

This beautiful shrub is on the critically endangered species list of flowering plant in the family, Proteaceae, endemic to South Africa, common name is the Strawberry Spiderhead. They are found along the southwestern Cape from Cederberg to Mosselbaai. The description of the leaves is deeply cut into many partitions, but not individual leaflets and they point upwards with its tangled branch structure that produce an overall woolly effect that produces numerous solitary silky pinks, sweetly, scented flowers. The flower season is Spring, Early Autumn with plenty of honeybees enjoying the sweet pollen on offer.

The flowers are short lived and reproduces from seed, the seeds are released within two months of flowering. The seeds are small, hard shelled, oval nutlets, covered by a fleshy skin called elaiosome, which is a chemical substance that attracts ants... the ant then carries the seed to their underground nest where they consume the skin. The seed remains safe, far away from predators such as rodents, until the conditions are right for them to germinate. Germinating takes place after a fire and when the soil temperature is right during the day and night.

Changes in the habitat include water pollution, brush cutting and spraying of herbicides. The shrub is under great threat due to farming and urban development. Unless there is urgent and appropriate field management, the remaining population will become extinct within the next few decades. Let us all cherish the wonders of nature and not take advantage of this beautiful but endangered flowering plant.





**IMAGES**



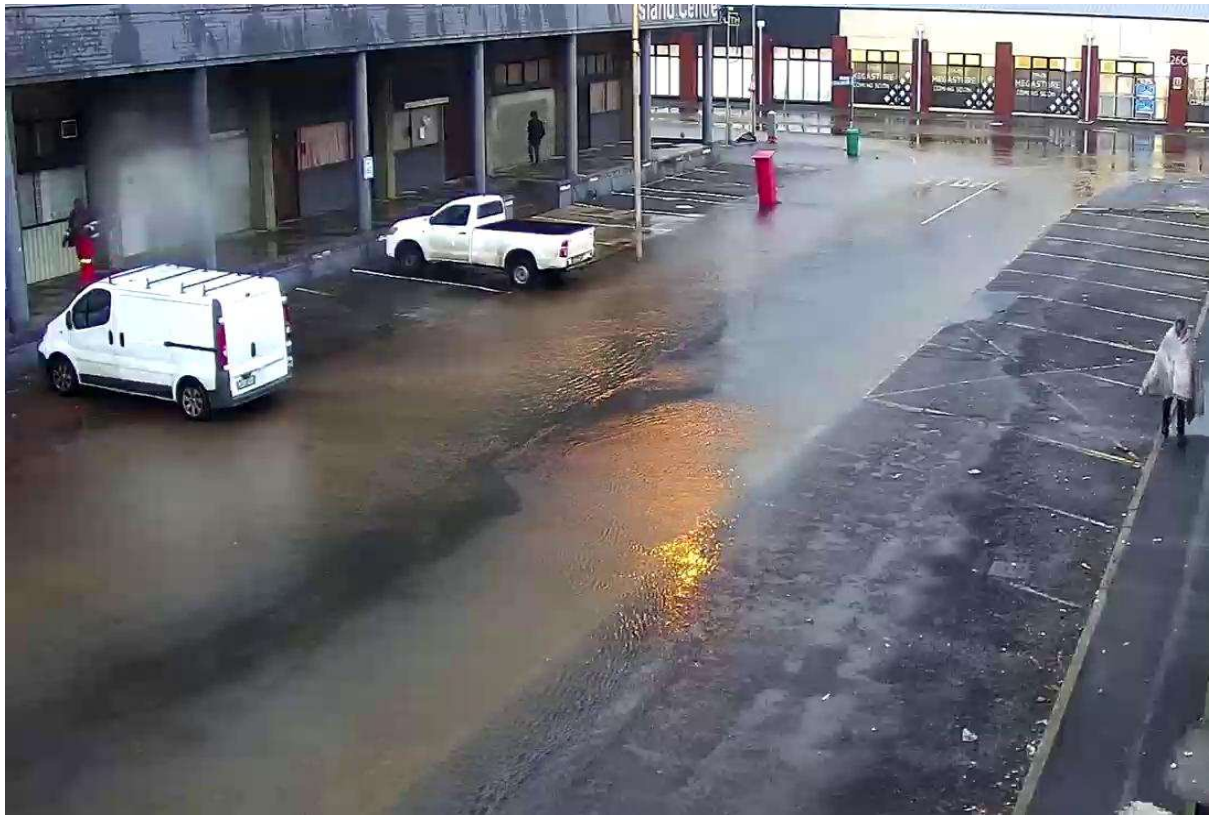
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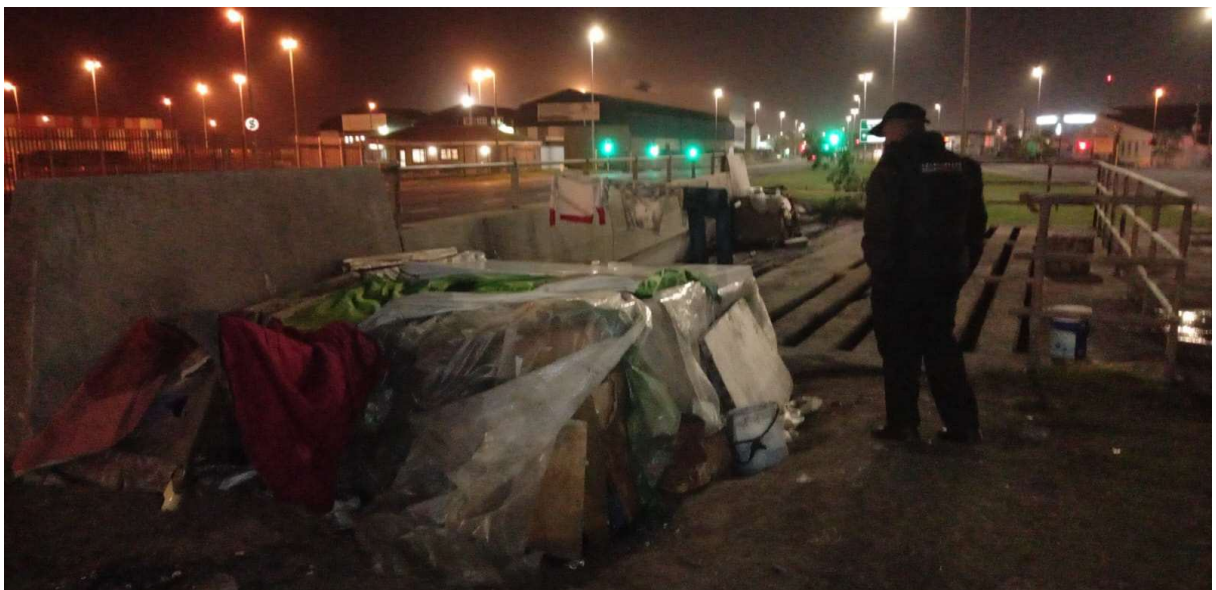
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Law Enforcement keeping the area in order and ensuring compliance with traffic laws

