



# Keeping our communities safe

## Overall approach

There are a few key things we must achieve to avoid loss of life and chaos

- » Stop violence and chaos by all means possible
- » Keep food coming into area – if violence continues and shops are broken no one will deliver food here
- » Keep roads open to food and medical support and SAPS can come in and we can move around freely
- » Identify new outbreaks quickly and get community leaders to persuade and defuse and SAPS to arrest lawbreakers – no civilians should use arms
- » Teams of mediators to intervene and stop localized conflict between protestors and shopkeepers, or neighbours – try hard to defuse racial conflict
- » We need to help people who are hurt

## How do we do this in every community:

**1. In every ward, township or village: Call community leaders, councillors, Community Police Forums, religious, taxi and political leaders to trouble spots to help to keep people calm:**

- » Set up a central ops centre in any available office with a phone and a direct line to SAPS.



- » Collect all emergency service numbers and spread. Let community know which areas are unsafe and should be avoided.
- » Ask community to identify any troublemakers and report to SAPS or Ops centre
- » Make sure all leaders and monitors understand the basic code of conduct: peace first, lives before property, talk before fighting, be humble and friendly but firm, obey the police, directly engage with any armed people to persuade them to not fight.
- » Explain the consequences of chaos and trust the people to listen and work with you.
- » Explain the results of chaos and persuade people to stop—loss of life, loss of jobs, no food or medical care in this area.
- » Stop all violence especially between looters and shopkeepers, neighbours and inter-racial violence.
- » Use taxi associations to inform ops centre and residents, transport people out or in and keep food supply safe where possible.
- » If there is no trouble yet call them together to plan, use community and other media, social media, loudhailers to keep people calm and defuse crisis points



**2. Deploy monitors and leaders to every area where there are shops as an early warning system:**

- » set up a WhatsApp group to quickly spread information about new attacks.
- » Stay at your posts and report on WhatsApp
- » Call for reinforcements if signs of trouble

**3. Keep food and medical supplies going**

- without food we will go deeper into chaos and start stealing from each other
- » Without medicine many more will die of Covid

**4. Wherever shops are being looted food suppliers will not restock their supplies:**

- » Work with police to identify danger areas as well as delivery spots where food can be safely taken, start planning for feeding soup kitchens if needed
- » Stop looting and protect shops, trucks and roads – work with SAPS
- » Block entrances to malls and streets with many shops and stand with police to reinforce their numbers

**5. Do not let people arm themselves or use violence to inflame the situation:**

- » Contact SAPS wherever armed groups form
- » Talk to them and persuade them not to inflame the situation



**6. Get help for people who are hurt**

» set up doctors rooms, clinics or temporary emergency units with transport that you can contact to treat people or take injured people out.

**7. Protect any neighbourhoods that are threatened and all work together.**

**8. Help shopkeepers move their goods if in danger of looting.**

**9. Set up community teams or volunteers or members of organisations to clean up looted shops, unblock streets and reassure the public.**

**10. Get CPF and Safety Committee members and patrollers to liaise with SAPS local commanders on any threat or act of criminality in your neighbourhood.**

**11. In all this, stay safe by putting on your mask, stay away from crowds, sanitise and wash your hands.**



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