

FIT TO FIGHT FIRE

Gauteng Pumps' fire protection equipment protects people and business when disaster strikes

Being prepared is more than half the battle, especially when it comes to fighting an unexpected fire. When disaster strikes, fire protection systems are a “first-attack” measure. In South Africa, Gauteng Pumps' fire protection equipment helps public organizations and companies keep people and property safe. Locally manufactured and assembled, their systems are designed to meet or exceed local fire pump standards and consultant specifications.

From inquiry to commissioning and handover, the Gauteng Pumps team takes time to carefully consider and engineer the most appropriate solution for each client. These solutions range from basic key-switch-start dewatering units to fully containerized fire pump houses for local and more remote applications in Botswana, Lesotho, and Zambia.


When failure isn't an option

With so much at stake, codes and standards for fire protection equipment are stringent. To cover the full spectrum of fire pump specifications (NFPA 20 and UL/FM), Gauteng Pumps imports complete pump units from Aurora in the U.S. and Nijhuis in the Netherlands, and integrates John Deere base engines.

“We use a wide range of John Deere engines,” says Terry Frewen, managing director. “They have proven reliable and consistent; in fact, in the 14 years we have used them, any failures have been due to external circumstances. The engines always deliver the power stated in the documentation, and fitting a heat exchange tank or radiator is easy. John Deere engine distributor Power O2 here in Gauteng knows these engines inside out and makes sure we have the right engines and parts to fulfill any customer need.”

While no one denies the importance of fire equipment, it is often an afterthought when designing sites. During the initial building construction phase, the systems or rooms may be positioned without consideration for future requirements, such as replacing an engine or pump. “They are tucked away in obscure, difficult-to-reach locations, which also complicates servicing of fire pumps and control panels,” Frewen continues. “In the design of our units, we try to ensure that access to parts for service is easy. If equipment is serviced as recommended and operated by competent people, it should last for many years; so as part of our after-sales service, we offer on-site equipment training.”

Gauteng Pumps recently commissioned units with a 69-kW (93-hp) John Deere PowerTech™ 4.5L GSPU (generator power set) engine for retailer Spar in Secunda, and systems with a 31-kW (42-hp) John Deere PowerTech 2.9L GSPU engine for the City of Tshwane and for leading packaging manufacturer Mega Pak in Zimbabwe. “We hope our customers will never have to use our systems against a fire,” says Frewen. “But if they do, our solutions will provide them with peace of mind.”

 **Distributor: Power O2 in Alberton North, Gauteng, South Africa; www.powero2.co.za**



For customer Mega Pak in Zimbabwe, Gauteng fitted its KSB Etanorm 80-65-315 pump with a 31-kW (42-hp) John Deere PowerTech 2.9L GSPU engine.