

# FIRE AND RESCUE INTERNATIONAL

Integrated fire, rescue, EMS and disaster management technology

Volume 2 No 1



Support Children of Fire



**Safequip Purple K**, is a potassium bicarbonate base dry-chemical fire suppression agent used in some dry powder fire extinguishers. It is the most effective dry chemical in fighting class B (flammable liquid) fires, and can be used against some energized electrical equipment fires (class C fires). It is at least 5 times more effective against class B fires than carbon dioxide and has about twice the effectiveness of sodium bicarbonate based powders. This is due to the larger size of the potassium ion.



**Safequip Purple K** Dry Chemical Powder (DCP) works by directly inhibiting the chemical chain reaction in the combustion zone of flammable liquid fires which forms one of the four sides of the fire tetrahedron (Heat + Oxygen + Fuel + Chemical Chain Reaction = Fire) This chemical reaction produces 'free radicals' which attach themselves to the surface of the powder particles introduced into the combustion zone. This inhibits the chemical reaction forming the flame and causes the flame to cease existing.

**Safequip Purple K** is packaged in sealed buckets containing 25kg of the dry chemical powder.

*Technical data sheets are available from Safequip (Pty) Ltd*

**Safequip Purple K** (90% Potassium Bicarbonate) is a Class BC powder and is SANS 1522 approved and is available for use in areas such as airfields, chemical plants and refineries where superior fire extinguishing qualities are required. It is manufactured in house by Safequip along with the other Blue Crane range of SABS certified dry-chemical fire suppression agents.

**SABS tested Fire Rating** achieved with 9kg portable stored pressure extinguishers using **Safequip Purple K** DCP is 233B

**Appearance:** A fine violet colour free flowing powder

**Main ingredient:** Potassium Bicarbonate 90%

**Temperature stability range:** Fire extinguishers are capable of operation in temperatures down to  $-15^{\circ}\text{C}$  or up to  $+49^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

*Purple-K should never be mixed with phosphate-based fire suppression agents.*

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# Comment



Lee Raath-Brownie

We proudly present lucky number 13th edition of **Fire and Rescue International (FRI)**. Our biggest issue to date, this edition is brim-packed with news, technical know-how, interesting snippets and loads of information. We trust that you enjoy reading the magazine as much as we enjoyed writing it!

**Cover profile**

South Africa's charity organisation, Children of Fire, is featured on our front cover this month as part of the magazine's mission to assist fire, rescue and disaster related charity organisations with their awareness campaigns and fund raising initiatives. Children of Fire is a very worthy cause and we request our readers to assist where possible.

**FRI Images photographic competition**

An excellently timed photograph won one of FRI's readers R2 000. See page 3 for details. CONGRATULATIONS!

Submit your high-resolution photograph featuring a rescue, emergency, incident or fire scene and win R2 000 cash!

**News section**

Our news section features the South African Easter weekend's accident and rescue results, a new wildfire management certificate launched by NMMU Saasveld, a new training centre launched by ATA International, the Egyptian hot-air balloon crash, the De Doorns bus accident, new fire fighter helmet from Dräger, Husqvarna's blower, the New Year's Day fires in Cape Town and the recent Western Cape wage dispute riots.

Rural Metro also features prominently, introducing their new E-learning fire fighting courses and FRI announces its media partnership with IFSEC 2013.

**SAESI conference and exhibition 2013**

FRI previews the SAESI conference and exhibition, which will be held from 12 to 15 May 2013 at the Expo Centre, Nasrec, Johannesburg. We offer our readers a sneak preview to the exhibition to enable them to plan their daily programme. We also feature the conference programme and urge readers to attend this informative event.

**Fire and life strategies conference**

We review this enlightening conference held by the Western Cape Local Government Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Services. It was, by nature of its topic, a very emotive and sobering look at informal settlement fires, its mitigation, prevention, future awareness campaigns and past statistics.

**Fire department in focus**

FRI visited eThekweni Municipality Fire Service and share our interview with fire chief, Mark te Water.

**Fires in residential complexes**

Colin Deiner, writer of FRI's technical feature, discusses the complexities of fighting fires in residential complexes. The barriers brought on by crime in South Africa, certainly challenge all emergency operations in these confined areas. Deiner details some innovative tactics in his usual frank way.

**Fire protection association (FPA) profile**

The Cape Peninsula FPA is profiled in this edition highlighting some of its challenges and strategies.

**Retired chief fire officers**

Lenny Naidoo discusses the valuable, untapped resource in South Africa's retired chief fire officers. Certainly a thought-provoking topic and worth an investigation.

We welcome your input and views and extend a special invitation to all our readers to participate in the magazine. Fire and Rescue International is your magazine. Read it, use it and share it!



## Congratulations to

Natasha de Kock for her  
“Diverse perspective” photo  
taken with a Nikon D60 and a  
Sigma zoom lens on sport setting

### Photo description:

A fire demonstration at the  
1<sup>st</sup> WRSA Conference in  
Modimolle. Working on Fire  
spotter pilot: Trevor and  
helicopter pilot: Paul

Natasha de Kock wins  
this month's prize money  
of R 2 000!

Well done!



This month's FRI images winner!

## Submit your rescue, fire or EMS photo and win R2 000!

Fire and Rescue International (FRI) has introduced a monthly photographic competition to all its readers. This exciting competition offers you the opportunity of submitting your digital images of fires, fire fighters, disasters, emergencies and rescues.

### The rules are simple:

- All photographs submitted must be in jpeg format and not bigger than 4 megabytes.
- Photographs must be in high resolution (minimum 1500 pixels on the longest edge @ 300dpi) for publishing purposes
- **Allowed:** cropping, curves, levels, colour saturation, contrast, brightness, sharpening but the faithful representation of a natural form, behaviour or phenomenon must be maintained.
- **Not allowed:** cloning, merging/photo stitching, layering of two photos into one final frame, special effects digital filters.
- Fire and Rescue International (FRI) reserves the right to publish (printed or digitally) submitted photographs with acknowledgement to the photographer.
- Winners will be chosen on the merit of their photograph.
- The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into afterwards.
- Brief description should accompany photo.

### Entries must include:

Name of photographer  
Contact details (not for publishing)  
Email: (not for publishing)  
Name of photograph  
Brief description of photograph including type of fire  
Camera, lens and settings used

All entries must be emailed to:  
[lee@fireandrescue.co.za](mailto:lee@fireandrescue.co.za).

>>ENTER NOW!





# Refuge for child burn survivors across Africa

*Children of Fire has provided help to hundreds of child burn survivors across Africa*

**L**ocal charity with an international footprint, Children of Fire, works with burn survivors in South Africa and across the continent, providing medical advice and assistance to disadvantaged children in urban and rural communities that would otherwise not receive adequate medical treatment.

The charity also coordinates awareness campaigns to educate impoverished communities about fire safety. This is done through various initiatives such as the production and dissemination of video fire safety tutorials to the fire services industry in South Africa, providing disaster recovery bags in informal settlements and training volunteer fire fighters in shanty towns most at risk, among other peer-to-peer fire awareness initiatives.

Children of Fire founder, Bronwen Jones, a Briton who has lived in Africa for 22 years, says that the disaster recovery bag is made available to indigent communities in disaster scenarios. However, the centre relies on funding to distribute the bag to

these affected areas. She says, "The bag allows people to recover and feel half-decent for a few days, but we need people to sponsor it."

The contents of the bag includes basic living necessities, such as soap for clothing and also soap for personal use, a tooth brush, eating utensils, as well as a tin opener for food supplied with the bag, and clothes, explains Jones.

Jones also established a sister-charity the Johannesburg School for Blind, Low Vision and Multiple Disability Children which orphaned burn survivors attend while preparing for surgery. It is close to the Children of Fire premises located in Auckland Park, Johannesburg, which is the base of the pan-African charity work. However, Children of Fire's main task is to emotionally and physically rebuild young survivors of burn injuries in Africa and to assist and educate the communities in which they live, providing both prevention and cure.

The origins of the charity are based on Jones' chance meeting with an

infant burn survivor in 1996, who was abandoned and in critical condition at the Far East Rand state hospital in Springs, Gauteng. Jones was moved to visit the six-month old burn survivor in hospital after reading of her plight in the media. She eventually was made the sole guardian of the child by officials and later adopted her.

Dorah is now 19 years old, notes Jones. "She is the most badly burned girl in the world to survive and everything came about because of her." Three hospitals turned Dorah away, denying her treatment, due to the severity of the burns sustained to her skull, face, chest and fingers. "She had a hole in her skull and had fourth degree burns," adds Jones.

## Charity origins

Jones had worked as an engineering geologist at the time of her initial introduction to Dorah, at which point she gradually immersed herself in finding medical solutions for the child. Jones drew on her education to gain a foothold in the medical fraternity – setting up meetings ▶

►with medical doctors and surgeons in order to negotiate medical treatment for child burn survivors.

"My technical background was useful in thinking about solutions for the child. I had the audacity to challenge the doctors. They did not want to spend the money it required to save Dorah," she laments. "I started Children of Fire, because I met her and was disappointed with the manner in which children were treated in state hospitals and nobody fighting Dorah's cause. She really had no one. My son Tristan and I wanted to find help for her."

Jones says that the severity of the burns sustained by the infant Dorah necessitated 32 different operations over the years since her accident. After initially tapping into her personal resources to provide help for Dorah, the centre was ultimately created and supported by the goodwill of small independent donors, who still provide all funding received by Children of Fire.

### African footprint

Many years later and Jones extended the footprint of Children of Fire to provide medical care and assistance to impoverished communities and burn survivors across the African continent.

The charity employs a small team of volunteers and staff, some of whom are burn victim survivors themselves. Social worker manager at Children of Fire, Mitta Lebaka (23), is among a handful of workers in the employ of Children of Fire. Lebaka, herself, is a child burn survivor who received assistance from Jones when she was badly burnt as a child after her clothes caught fire from an electric stove at her mother's home in Soweto. Lebaka sustained serious burns on her neck and chest, receiving major neck surgery a year after her accident, while also undergoing breast reconstruction surgery later on in her life.

Lebaka now runs a base in London and works with children across the African continent, traveling to remote villages on the continent and on to medical facilities around the world that offer special medical treatment to child burn survivors. The local charity has assisted more



*Children of Fire founder Bronwen Jones with child burn survivor Sizwe when she was awarded the Inyathelo Philanthropy Award in Health for Africa*

than 350 burn survivors from different parts of Africa, and this includes such cases as a girl burned in an acid attack in Gabon, west Africa; a boy burnt in a rebel attack in Sudan, east Africa; and a girl burnt in a stove explosion in Tunisia, north Africa. The rehabilitation centre takes care of between six and 40 children at any given time, all provided with repeated surgery and with occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

Jones says that there is a stigma around children who have been badly burned and she has found that some surgeons avoid working on child burn survivors. She adds, "It is getting harder to find medical help for these children as management of state health care declines and doctors emigrate from South Africa." "Anyone who is badly burned – all they need is love and common sense," appeals Jones. Child burn survivors suffer both physical and mental trauma as a result of the cosmetic transformation they experience. Jones says that her task is to provide holistic rehabilitation to the child burn survivors. "Child after child came and I have gained great knowledge on how you can

'fix' these kids," she explains. "I've also learned that children under six-year old get medical help for free in South Africa."

To this end, her work with young burn survivors becomes a race against time, before children reach an age where they are not permitted complimentary health care.

### Burn statistics

Jones reveals that one in three burned kids are burned intentionally, adding that more than 15 000 children suffer severe burns in South Africa annually.

"A big part of the problem is that people are embarrassed to seek help when they face a nervous breakdown or they find that no psychological help is available to the poor, so they take out their anger or fear on the weakest around them; they set their nearest and dearest alight," states Jones.

Children of Fire is proactively involved in various fire fighting and awareness projects, such as the design of fire fighting water tanks to combat disasters in a critical post-fire period before fire brigades ►



More than 15 000 children suffer severe burns in South Africa every year

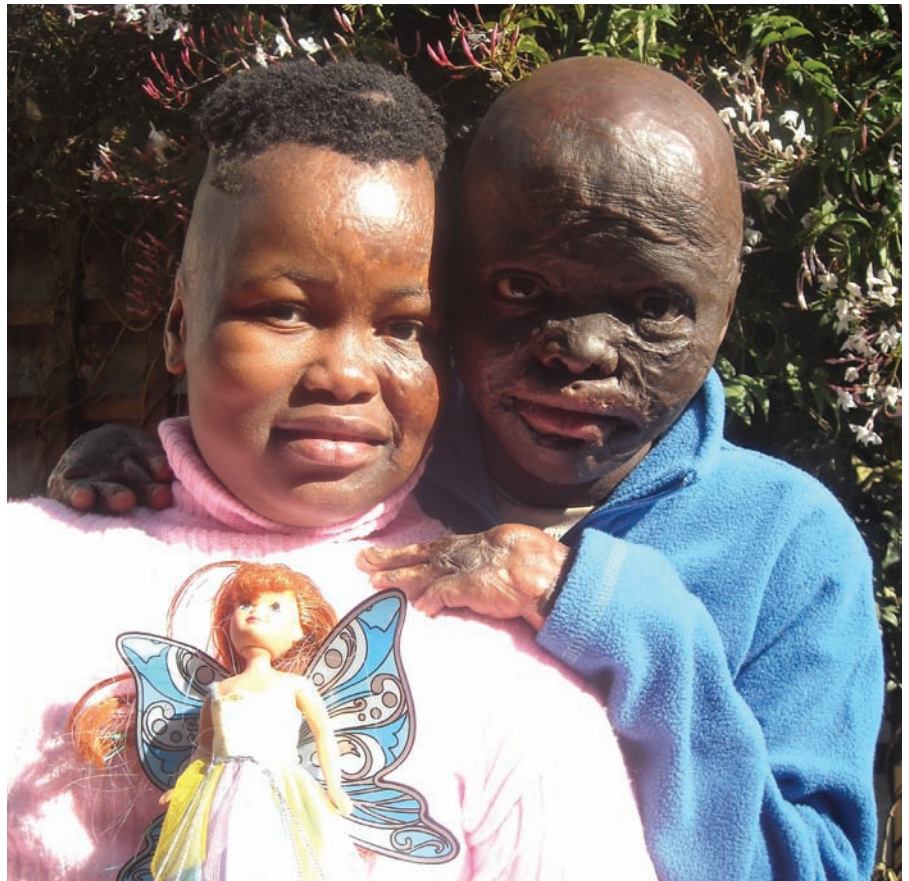
arrive on scene. Jones says, "That has saved significant number of lives. We have water tanks in East-Rand, some in Alexandra Township and also in Slovo squatter camp, in Crosby."

Another novel undertaking by the centre has been to work with inventors of new stoves, candle holders and fuels, specifically towards creating safer household fire appliances for the poor.

### Awareness initiatives

Jones says that the centre is engaged with organisations across Africa to combat the prevalence of fire-related injuries among children. "We do research and interact with medical students and doctors. We also have volunteers that we use in different capacities," she says.

UMashesha, which means quick response, translated into English, is one project undertaken by the centre that coordinates a group of volunteers, who are trained in fire fighting, hazmat and first aid. "We get them to go where fire engines cannot go," says Jones. The



One in three burned kids are burned intentionally in South Africa

UMashesha volunteers are based in the rural and informal settlements.

Other activities of the centres include publicising severe cases of burn survivors so as to educate the public about the particular incident and cause of the accident. "We have had one burn survivor, Franklin Mochadibane. He was burned with fuel gel – which was introduced as a possible replacement for paraffin fuel. We sent out press releases and invited journalists to interview Franklin that so people can learn from that," explains Jones.

She adds, "A repeated problem is people not keeping up public education and fire fighters can play a big role in that. If they can be more involved with continued education in communities we can cut down the number of deaths and injuries."

The centre visits hospitals and present toys to all the children patients, while at the same time conducting research. Jones says that she 'started with nothing' and so runs things on gifts-in-kind whenever possible.

### Charitable precedent

Children of Fire is the first charity in Africa that is dedicated to child burn survivors. After providing medical help to hundreds of children across Africa for almost 20 years, mostly through the goodwill of donors who are 'by and large ordinary folks', states Jones, "We have an affinity with the poor. We speak out for children, because they cannot," she says.

Children of Fire and its founder, Jones is inspired and fuelled by the many burned kids who successfully integrate into society, despite their extreme and perceived disabilities. "Our children attend university, get married and do great things. They're doing things they never imagined they could do. They are superheroes. They don't know it when they arrive but they know it when they leave," she enthuses.

Jones' ultimate wish, however, is to build a Children's Burns Hospital in Botswana to serve sub-Saharan Africa. On Facebook it is called Place Of Miracles. She urges people to read about it on the charity's website: [www.firechildren.org](http://www.firechildren.org) or to follow news on Twitter @ChildrenOfFire. ▲



# Easter weekend road deaths show year-on-year increase



Nearly 1,3-million people die in road accidents around the world every year



Ben Martins – It is regrettable that road fatality figures are higher than last year

The heavy spate of road accidents that occurs during the Easter weekend in South Africa has increased this year, despite widespread awareness campaigns by the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC), Arrive Alive and the Automobile Association of South Africa (AA).

Preliminary reports released days after Easter weekend from 28 March to 1 April, show that 241 people died on South Africa's roads, which is up from the 217 lives lost during the same period last year. In 2011, a total of 151 deaths occurred during this same period.

"It is regrettable and a sad reality that this year's preliminary road fatality figures is higher than that of last year," said South African Minister of Transport Ben Martins in a media briefing on Easter road safety enforcement on 8 April, 2013.

The Department of Transport reveals that human causes of road fatalities were mainly driving at high speeds above the set speed limits, the abuse of alcohol by drivers and pedestrians and dangerous and reckless overtaking. "With respect to motor vehicles, the most common defects were found on steering

wheels, tyres and brakes. There were also instances where poor road conditions contributed to road fatalities," Martins said.

Most of the people who died during Easter were pedestrians. "Many passengers also lost their lives, because they do not use safety belts. Only two percent of passengers use safety belts compared to 60 percent of drivers," Martins said.

"While South Africa is a signatory of the United Nations Resolution on the

Decade of Action, which aims to reduce road crashes by 50 percent over the next ten years, it is clear that little has been done to create change or prevent road deaths during the busiest times of the year," says AA head of public affairs, Gary Ronald.

Ronald says that the United Nations' Decade of Action initiative, was launched two years ago, however, a South Africa strategy is yet to be formulated and introduced to the public. ▶



A total of 864 motorists were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol

# SA's bad weather sees fewer Easter beach visitors



*NSRI had fewer emergency calls when compared to previous seasons owing to bad weather*

South Africa's National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) responded to a range of emergency call-outs during the Easter weekend from 29 March to 1 April, this year. Among the emergency calls received were for people trapped by floods at KwaZulu-Natal's (KZNs) South Coast, as well as paddlers in distress as a result of gale force winds in False Bay, Cape Town, reports NSRI marketing manager, Andrew Ingram.

However, large ocean swells and strong winds overtook the coastal region during the Easter holidays, affecting the influx of holiday makers

to the South African coastal region this season. Ingram says that the NSRI received a lower volume of emergency calls during the Easter weekend compared to previous seasons, as a direct result of the inclement weather.

The ocean swells would also have affected the normal operation of bigger sea vessels, which would have stayed further off-shore and delayed their entry into port.

"Beach-goers and those who wanted to launch small craft, were mostly not able to do that because of bad weather, strong winds and

big swells made things unpleasant, so they mostly stayed at home," states Ingram.

The NSRI responded to only one fatal drowning incident at Glenmore Beach, which is four kilometres north east of Port Edward, KZN. Ingram says that the NSRI's resources were not over-stretched and the institute was able to effectively respond to all emergency calls received. "Some of our stations responded to more than one call over the weekend with Shelly Beach, KZN, being the busiest with three call outs on Easter Friday, but at no time were we over-stretched."▲

► Nearly 1,3-million people die on the world's roads every year, while up to 50 million road users are injured, annually.

In South Africa, Over 2 200 vehicles passed through the major arterial routes in Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga, Eastern Cape, Free State and the Western Cape. A total of 864 motorists were arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. Approximately 600 of these motorists

were arrested in urban areas, reported the Department of Transport.

A total of 250 000 vehicles were stopped during the holiday, and that 79 056 fines were issued. Martins said 1 039 licences were suspended and 1 024 vehicles were impounded.

"As part of the all year long road safety and enforcement plan, the department and its agencies, and MECs of Transport in South Africa's nine

provinces, heightened their road safety campaigns, which included education and awareness; enforcement and outreach to key stakeholders and this included taxi associations, bus companies, community organisations, and churches," said Martins.

In light of the increased road deaths this season, government will now launch campaigns to ensure all vehicle passengers buckled up, said Martins.▲

# New fire management qualification instituted at NMMU

The Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University's (NMMUs) George campus Saasveld, situated in the Western Cape, has added a fire management certificate to its course offering.

NMMUs has two campus location in George and Port Elizabeth, respectively, with the Saasveld campus specifically focusing on the environment, business and management, which are deemed as key issues in sustainable development by the university.

The new 'veldfire' management course will be integrated with the course offering at NMMUs School of Natural Resource Management that aims to develop students' insights, skills and practical know-how, in order to make a difference in the conservation, agriculture, forestry, and wood technology fields.▶



NMMU George Campus plans to offer a three-year diploma in Veldfire Management

## George Campus

*Saasveld*

Nelson Mandela  
Metropolitan  
University

for tomorrow

Port Elizabeth & George

**NMMU's George Campus at Saasveld focuses specifically on the environment, business and management – key issues in sustainable development.**

The Faculties of Science; Business & Economic Sciences; and Education aim to develop your insights, skills and practical know-how, which can help you make a real difference in the forestry, agriculture, conservation, business, accounting and tourism fields.

From 2014 the George Campus will grow its focused programme offerings in natural resource management with the introduction of a Higher Certificate in Veldfire Management (one year full-time or two years part-time).

Saasveld is a firm favourite as it is well-known for its natural setting; as well as its close collaboration with the respective industries. Practical excursions and assignments in the beautiful surroundings are prominent features

of the programme offerings that ensure the best possible exposure to the various industries and its practices.

**For an application form or more information:**

- NMMU George Campus
- Tel: 044 801 5111 • Fax: 044 801 5031
- E-mail: [george-info@nmmu.ac.za](mailto:george-info@nmmu.ac.za)

[georgecampus.nmmu.ac.za](http://georgecampus.nmmu.ac.za)

BODM/TOWN/COZA\_3758  
 070 FR1 VO2461

► The newly instituted Higher Certificate in Veldfire Management will come into effect at the start of the 2014 semester, reports NMMU lecturer Tiaan Pool.

Pool states that all the programmes offered within the School of Natural Resource Management are designed to train and educate managers to better manage their environment through the adoption of sound business principles that will enable them to generate social gain.

These business principles, known as the triple bottom line, were applied in designing the parameters of the

**Higher Certificate in Veldfire Management Modules:**

	MODULE	NQF LEVEL	CREDITS
<b>Semester I</b>			
1	Principles of Veldfire Management	5	15
2	Veldfire Legislation	5	7
3	Urban Interface Management	5	7
4	Financial Management Principles	5	8
5	Engineering Principles	5	7
6	Veldfire Suppression	5	11
7	Human Resource Management I	5	5
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>			<b>60</b>
<b>Semester II</b>			
8	Human Resource Management II	5	5
9	Fire Ecology and Conservation	5	12
10	Incident Command	5	12
11	Integrated Fire Management	5	12
12	Fuel Management Techniques	5	8
13	Fire Management Planning	5	11
<b>TOTAL CREDITS</b>			<b>60</b>

fire management course at NMMU, reports the university.

Pool says that the fire management course is a one-year full time qualification that will be offered on a two-year part-time basis initially, in order to accommodate working individuals.

He says that wildfires are becoming an increasing environmental, financial and social problem in South Africa. "The inability of the land users and organisations tasked to deal with this situation is evident - if the losses caused by these fires are considered. The single biggest threat to the forestry industry, is wildfires," states Pool.

Land owners and surrounding communities often cause the devastating fires that burn out of control and this ultimately is responsible for the losses suffered by the industry, explains Pool.

He says local authorities are not suitably equipped to suppress these fires as they do not have any training or educating in wildfire management. "There are a limited number of providers who can address the need for proper education in fire management," advises Pool. Furthermore, he says that the training need can be divided into skills and, academic and management training and education.

"The providers who are in a position to address these needs don't have the capacity to be of much assistance. As yet, a number of short courses in fire management exist that are presented occasionally and only accommodate a very small group of people - too few to make a substantial difference on the ground," says Pool.

**Pitching the idea to management**

The first attempt to persuade NMMU to present this qualification was made in 2008, and due to varying reasons the George campus management did not support the idea.

The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, following pressure from land owners, approached the NMMU Saasveld to conduct an investigation into formulating a nationally recognised higher

qualification in wildfire management, reports Pool.

A workshop was subsequently held for various role players of the different land use industries to gauge their support for the development of such a qualification.

"In 2011, the request was repeated and the Science faculty of the NMMU embraced the idea enthusiastically and gave the go ahead for the development of such a programme," says Pool.

He mentions that NMMU's wildfire qualification draws from short courses and modules from other Natural Resource Management programmes in the country such as the forestry, conservation and even agriculture industry. The new qualification offered by NMMU is a unique combination of modules selected from different modules that is designed to address the needs of the southern Africa fire manager, adds Pool.

He highlights the exit level outcomes of the programme saying that it includes; strategically and effectively assessing and managing the fire environment in order to protect infrastructure, human lives and the biophysical environment, using technology, engineering concepts and infrastructure effectively for wildfire management, integrating relevant activities with existing fire management systems in a region and demonstrating an understanding of applicable legislation relevant to wildfire management.

Pool says that the fire management qualification, in short, is geared towards 'empowering fire managers to deal with fires and the fire environment to minimise losses caused by unwanted fires'.

"The vision is to grow the qualification into a three-year national diploma within five years," states Pool. ▲

### Erratum

In our 2012 Fire Season review, we misquoted Dr Neels de Ronde saying that the Free State lost 380 000 hectares in a single day during August, when it should have stated 153 700 hectares (380 000 acres). FRI thanks Malcolm Proctor for highlighting the misquote.

# ATA International and ECG establish training academy in South Africa

Occupational health and safety training specialist, ATA International, has opened an advanced life support training academy in South Africa, as part of a joint venture initiative with Emergency Care Global (ECG).

ECG owner, Hoosein Ravat, points out that he approached ATA International to go into a joint venture to run the academy, due to the fact that the company has in the past placed a large number of candidates at the ECG college for advanced life support training. "Over the years, we have developed a strong working relationship with ATA International, which has an excellent reputation in the industry.

The training academy specialises in offering post qualification programmes for healthcare workers, including doctors, nurses, paramedics, medics and physiotherapists. ATA International director, Trevor Justus, notes that the training centre is currently mobile. "We typically try to run the courses in centralised areas, such as a well known conference venue in the Midrand area, due to the fact that it is central, between Pretoria and Johannesburg."

Justus highlights the fact that training is also run at hotels and various other locations where ATA International students are located. "The aim for the centre in future will be to have a permanent training centre located

in Johannesburg, while ensuring that a mobile kit is on hand for out-of-town courses that are beyond the borders of Gauteng."

The four key courses that are currently available include:

- Basic life support (BLS)
- Paediatric advanced life support (PALS)
- International trauma life support (ITLS)
- Advanced cardiovascular life support (ACLS)

The training centre has a core of highly capable and respected instructors across all disciplines, who have to-date presented a number of BLS, PALS, ITLS and ACLS courses. Despite the success to-date, Justus admits that one of the biggest challenges is that these instructors all hold down full time jobs, as well as positions as instructors for ATA International. "One of the plans for the centre is to hold more weekend and long weekend courses, in order to ensure that people don't have to take as much leave."

According to Justus, the Advanced Life Support Training Academy offers instructor programmes on request. "We also offer courses specifically around cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automated external defibrillator (AED) and are also looking at bringing in the access programme, which is a form of extrication. ATA would like to expand this to include access and paediatric trauma programmes."



Trevor Justus

Justus notes that there are typically between six and eight people per course. "The reason for keeping the numbers small is because each of these programmes is based around the dynamics of a team and the value of a team is lost when there are too many or too few people. There is a huge drive into the market place for team driven patient care and, as a result, all the programmes revolve around this."

Looking to the future, Justus is optimistic of the future outlook for the new training centre. "Demand for the services offered by the training centre has been excellent throughout 2012 and we hope to continue training at these levels in the future, with the eventual long term plan of expanding our geographical footprint across the whole of South Africa," he concludes.

The Advanced Life Support Training Academy is affiliated with the Resuscitation Council of South Africa and the International Trauma Life Support Chapter. ▲

## Mudslides in Tanzania claim 13 lives

Torrential rains in the northern Tanzanian town of Arusha resulted in mudslides that caused the death of 13 people at a quarry in April this year.

The east African country is currently experiencing a buoyant economy that has fuelled a building boom, especially in the center of the tourist

town. However, high demand for construction materials has led to a proliferation of new quarries, raising concern for safety standards.

Several trucks were buried under the muddy morass in the Moshono area on the outskirts of Arusha and television coverage showed rescue

workers could be seen in military uniform carrying the bodies of victims out of the quarry on stretchers.

Two people were rescued from the mudslides before the search and rescue operation ended a day later. The quarry was temporarily closed to allow police investigations.

Police officers in Ypsilanti will be trained in fire fighting duties to save costs



## Hybrid police and fire department to save US city \$2,1 million

In a move to remain solvent, the city of Ypsilanti in Michigan, USA, began a cost saving initiative that involves merging the local police and fire department into one unified entity.

Ypsilanti city manager, Ralph Lange, is projecting that the hybrid police and fire department will achieve savings of \$2,1million over the next five years, reported Lange earlier this year.

"I think the position is, we're going with the hybrid public safety," Lange said. "It's not just about police and fire. For the city to be successful, I have to work with council to make sure the city is literally one integrated unit."

The city will purportedly hire eight new public safety officers over the next three years and 13 existing officers will be trained in fire fighting duties through 2016.

The hybrid department is set to be funded by the Competitive Grant Assistance Program from the state of Michigan, to which the city applied to receive \$943 480.

The city is also set to receive a separate \$903 474 grant through

Michigan states' Economic Vitality Incentive Programme (EVIP). A total of \$301 158 in this overall sum will go towards the city's consolidation efforts, reports the city of Ypsilanti.

From 1977 to 2014, the documents show the city has saved close to \$21 million through various consolidation and collaboration efforts.

Michigan's local governments were driven to find ways to save money in order to stay solvent – given the economic frailties of the state."It's something that I've done my whole career and it was part of the five-year recovery plan that was backed up by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) management review. It's just a necessity when you have less revenue for the general fund," said Lange.

In February, the city sent compliance forms to the Michigan Department of Treasury for the EVIP program, outlining its consolidation efforts.

The documents state the city will spend approximately \$738 480 over the next four years to train new and existing officers. The city believes it

will find about \$210 315 in short-term savings in one year, or less and save \$2 103 153 over the next five years.

Lange said the beginning of combining the two departments will be to consolidate the police and fire administration under one team and one director, which is dependent on the contract negotiations with the respective fire and police personnel. "I would feel very confident that before the end of the year, we'll have some measure of public safety," Lange said. In order for this goal to be realised, Lange said that the Police Officers Association of Michigan needs to get settled, adding that the deputy police chief and selecting the city's fire chief were key components in the process.

Lange said the city will continue to look at other ways to consolidate in different areas to save more money and become more efficient.

He said, however, "We're here not just to balance the budget, but deliver critical and essential services to the citizens." He added, "It's one thing to save money, but you have to still deliver services and we have to have the best use of employees."▲

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# Rural Metro blazing the trail in EMS industry



Rural Metro's Chris Gilbert, managing director; A J Lightbody, chairman and Lenny Naidoo, chief fire officer

Rural Metro Emergency Management Services made notable strides in the EMS industry, extending its products and services into 11 countries. The company employs approximately 200 personnel and its primary focus is to establish, augment and manage fire rescue services for municipalities, industry and other stakeholders in Africa.

Rural Metro Emergency Management Services is a fully independent, BBBEE compliant, fire engineering, occupational health and safety, accredited training academy and emergency service provider.

The company comprises of full-time certified professionals with considerable experience in the aforementioned disciplines. "These skilled professionals service our municipal contracts, providing fire, rescue and hazmat responses as well as training and public education to the communities that we protect, pursuing prevention as a key strategy", reports Rural Metro.

Rural Metro is also designated service as contemplated in the Fire Brigade Services Act 99 of 1987 and is a member of the South African Emergency Services Institute (SAESI), Disaster Management Institute of Southern Africa (DMISA) and is registered with the Department of Labour.

The organisation, registered in October 2000 was founded on the premise that communities in Africa could benefit from innovative and cost effective ways of delivering fire and emergency services, finding better and more efficient ways of managing personnel and resources.

Furthermore, the company seeks to address the challenges faced by the fire and emergency services, ensuring standards and compliance in accordance with international best practices, pursuing prevention as a key strategy.

The founding member of the company is Rural Metro's chairman, Tony Lightbody, who places an express focus on the fundamentals and the achievements of business imperatives.

Rural Metro managing director, Chris Gilbert, heads up the company and is a results driven leader who thrives on driving business fundamentals in order to grow and deliver on core functions.

Both Lightbody and Gilbert, are equipped with a wealth of experience in the highly specialised field of fire and emergency services. Rural Metro reports that in 2012, it became necessary to appoint an intermediary to ensure that the company's vision is synchronised to that of our clients. To this end, a renowned businessman, Paris Dlamini, was

appointed as director for corporate and government liaisons.

Forming part of the organisations formidable arsenal is Rural Metro's chief fire officer, Lenny Naidoo, and general manager for fire rescue operations, Rassie Erasmus, who are specialist in operations and training, respectively.

"We are the only private company in Africa that offers a full range of fire and emergency services and have exclusive rights in Africa to conduct fire fighter training via e-learning," states Gilbert. "Furthermore, Rural Metro is proud to have rolled out the first fire officer learnership programme in South Africa."

Rural Metro recently concluded a significant contract with the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to supply, deliver and erect 800 fire proof emergency shelters, reports Gilbert. "Over a period of eight months, our fire and life safety training component has successfully trained 6000 Department of Correctional Service officials on various South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA registered modules."

"The Company has recently completed the construction of a state-of-the-art training academy that accommodates 160 students, inclusive of meals and laundry services. The centre is equipped with four lecture rooms, spacious refectory and male and female dormitories. Installed on the drill yard are props for industrial, marine, petrochemical, and electrical fire fighting as well as confined space, motor vehicle and high-angle rescue training," indicates Gilbert.

Rural Metro has developed an incident reporting system designed specifically for fire service control centres. The system includes an occurrence book to record daily activities, is web based and disseminates the information via short messaging service (sms) and emails to the relevant stakeholders. The system allows for comprehensive, accurate and illustrative statistical information to be captured.

"Rural Metro Emergency Management Services mission is to maximise the value we bring to our customers by delivering an innovative, ►



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- > Online and workplace mentorship.
- > E-Learning is the most affordable option for training Firefighters.
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Please visit our website [www.ruralmetrosa.com](http://www.ruralmetrosa.com) to learn more about what we offer and how we can help you become part of the Fire Service Industry. Please take advantage of our affordable payment options below.

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Practical	9 120		4 000	930	9 890	4 000	585	9 850
Combined	18 240		6 000	2 222	19 332	6 000	1 399	19 990

Notes:  
- Finance options include a R330 administration fee, and R100 Contract initiation fee.  
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- Cash fee includes VAT.




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- Incident Command
- Vehicle Extrication

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- Hazard Identification & Risk Assessments
- Emergency Planning
- Aerial Photography Relating to Fire Risk

- ▶ professional and sustainable EMS," concludes Gilbert.

### Services provided

#### Fire fighting

- Fire and rescue response
- Hazardous material response

#### Disaster management

- Disaster management planning
- Establish industrial capacity
- Emergency housing
- Emergency feeding and medical
- Disaster management communications centre
- Disaster management early warning system
- Establishment of advisory forums
- 

#### Training

- Firefighter I and II (also available via Elearning)
- Hazmat awareness
- Hazmat operations
- Rope rescue level I and II
- Breathing apparatus
- Rescue awareness
- Swift water rescue
- Fire safety
- Occupational health and safety
- First aid (Level 1,2 and3)
- Evacuation procedures
- Confined space

#### Communications

- Call taking and dispatch centres
- Incident reporting systems
- Installation of hardware and software
- Asset tracking
- Database for statistical information

#### Public safety

- Evacuation planning
- Public education
- Fire safety inspections
- Major hazard installations

#### Special Projects

- Risk assessments
- Fire surveys
- Arson investigation
- Standards generation

#### Fire equipment supplies

- Design and manufacture fire engines
- Fire fighting equipment
- Protective clothing
- Uniforms
- Rescue equipment
- Equipment and vehicle maintenance ▲

# Egyptian hot-air balloon explosion claims 19 lives



*A rescue worker assists in clearing victims' remains*

A hot-air balloon caught fire in mid-air in the Egyptian town of Luxor causing a gas explosion that claimed the lives of nineteen Asian and European tourists in February, reported Egyptian officials.

Among the victims of the explosion were tourists from Japan, China, France, Britain and Hungary, as well as an Egyptian, confirmed Egyptian Health Minister Mohamed Mostafa Hamed.

Egypt officials reported that the balloon crashed on the west bank of the Nile River, where many of the area's major historical sites are located.

The balloon plunged onto farmland as it exploded 300 metres above Luxor, which is renowned for its pharaonic temples and tombs of the Valley of the Kings. The pilot survived the explosion after jumping from the basket when it was 10 to 15 metres from the ground.

Head of an association representing Luxor balloon operators, Ahmed Aboud, stated that the explosion was an accident. He said it was caused by fire that began in the pipe linking the gas canisters to the burner.

Mohamed Mustafa, a doctor at the hospital where the injured were

treated, said that the deaths in the balloon explosion were caused by burns and injuries sustained in the fall.

Wael Ibrahim, head of the tour guides' syndicate in Luxor said an accident like this could happen anywhere in the world and he did not expect the accident to make the situation worse for tour operators in the area. Last year a balloon plunged to the ground in flames in Slovenia, killing four people and injuring 28.

Although hot-air balloon accidents in Egypt have led to injuries in the past, there has been "nothing on this scale" since ballooning in the area began in 1989, reported an international media agency.

Overcrowding was blamed for a hot-air balloon crash near Luxor in 2009, which caused injuries to 13 tourists. The latest crash comes amid widespread anger over safety standards in Egypt following several deadly transport and construction accidents.

Egyptian civil aviation Minister, Wael el-Maadawi, said a committee from the ministry was heading to Luxor to investigate the incident. He said hot air balloon flights would be stopped until an investigation into the cause of the accident. ▲

# Bus crash in Western Cape claims 24 lives



The bus crash on Hex River pass in the Western Cape claimed 38 lives

A double decker bus overturned on the Hex River Pass in De Doorns, located in the Western Cape, South Africa, causing the death of 24 people in mid-March this year.

The Western Cape Government coordinated an extensive emergency response operation to the scene of the crash, where 23 people died on scene and one person on the way to hospital.

A total of 38 people were transported to various health facilities in the province by emergency medical services (EMS) resources of the Western Cape Government Health, which included forensic pathology services (FPS). Private EMS organisations in the Western Cape also responded to the accident.

EMS transported 24 patients to Worcester Provincial Hospital. In addition, 12 patients were transported to Worcester Medi-clinic and two critical patients were airlifted by Air Mercy Service (AMS) rescue helicopters.

The Western Cape Government's EMS resources activated for the fatal crash included nine response vehicles, 11 EMS ambulances and one South African Air Force (SAAF) Oryx helicopter.

Western Cape Disaster Management activated its joint operations centre (JOC) in order to assist.

The Western Cape Premier, Hellen Zille, expressed her condolences to the families of the passengers, who lost their lives in the bus crash.

A major crash investigation commenced soon after the accident occurred, reports the Western Cape Government. Early reports from the surviving passengers indicated brake failure as the main reason for the crash.

The provincial regulatory entity will investigate the legal status of the bus involved in the crash, which is registered in the Western Cape, including the validity of the operating licence and whether the certificate of fitness (COF) is still valid. ▲



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# Five soldiers lose lives in Kruger crash



*A SAAF Agusta A109 light-utility helicopter crashed over the Kruger National Park*

**A** helicopter crash in Kruger National Park, located in the Northern region of South Africa claimed the lives of five soldiers on 30 March this year, reported the South African National Defence Force (SANDF).

The names of the five soldiers, including the helicopter crew on-board the South African Air Force (SAAF) Agusta A109 light-utility helicopter, was released by the SANDF.

The soldiers who passed in the crash were; Captain Jacobus Andries van

Rensburg, Captain MP Chabalala, Sergeant Paulus Shongela Ndishishi, Sergeant GP Ruiters and Lance Corporal Bheki Petros Cele. "It is with sadness that the SANDF announces the names of the members who were in a fatal helicopter crash," stated the SANDF in a media release.

The helicopter was on a scheduled aerial patrol of the Kruger National Park as part of Operation Rhino, an on-going anti-rhino poaching operation in the wildlife reserve, which is one of the largest game reserves in Africa. Preliminary Investigations are currently underway to establish

the cause that led to the fatal crash of the helicopter, reported the SANDF.

Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, Ms Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula, Chief of the SANDF, General Solly Shoke and Chief of the SAAF, Lieutenant General Zimpande Msimang expressed their condolences to the families, loved ones and friends of the deceased members.

A preliminary investigation was undertaken to establish the sequence of events that led to the crash, reported the SANDF. ▲

## US town joins global resilient cities campaign

The city of Hoboken in New Jersey, US joined the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction's (UNISDRs) Making Cities Resilient Campaign in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

Hoboken was officially welcomed into the UNISDR campaign by UN Secretary-General's special representative for disaster risk reduction, Margareta Wahlström, on 27 March, this year.

Hoboken is now one of four US cities that have joined UNISDR's global campaign, which currently has 1 400 adherents or supporters. In addition to joining the campaign, the city hosted a five-kilometre Hoboken Resilience Run on 6 April, this year and this was coupled with a morning community fair to raise awareness on community resilience. Hoboken will donate proceeds to the Rebuild Hoboken

Relief Fund, the New Jersey Relief Fund and its Jamaican sister city, Port Maria, which was also impacted by Hurricane Sandy.

Wahlström, who also heads the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction said, "The mayor and citizens of Hoboken epitomise the spirit of resilience. They have made good progress to recover from one of the worst storms ever to hit the United States. It means a lot to the campaign to have that experience to tap into. Unfortunately, extreme weather events are on the rise worldwide and it is important that exposed communities like Hoboken are seen to take a lead on reducing their risk."

Storm pumps help address the issue of frequent flooding. One pump, installed in 2011, proved its value during Hurricane Sandy when it pumped out about 284-million litres



*Margareta Wahlström - UN Secretary-General's special representative for disaster risk reduction*

per day. She and her team are currently pursuing a comprehensive plan that includes green infrastructure and engineering solutions.

The Resilient Cities Campaign fosters resilience through improving urban planning, infrastructure and building safety, shoring up drainage systems to reduce flood and storm threats, installing early warning systems, conducting public awareness initiatives and taking measures to adapt to climate change impacts. ▲

# New fire fighter helmet from Dräger

The new HPS 7000 fire fighting helmet was developed by Dräger in close cooperation with customers worldwide. With its new ergonomic design and components that make it a multi-functional system solution, it protects fire fighters in any situation.

**D**espite its low weight of only about 1,4kg (base version), the Dräger HPS 7000 is one of the safest full-shell helmets in its class. The outer shell, made of composite material, in combination with the PUR inner shell, provides reliable protection against thermal and mechanical influences and is even able to withstand the enormous radiation heat and flame engulfment of a flashover. Made of high temperature resistant polyethersulfone, the visors reliably protect eyes and face from high heat, particles and liquid chemicals. The optionally available LED helmet lamp is integrated into the helmet shell and provides enough light in the work area.

## Tailor-made fit for every head

The HPS 7000 is available in two sizes - for head circumferences from 50 to 66cm. The red dot-awarded ergonomic helmet design evenly distributes the weight across the head and thus relieves the neck muscles. Users also have several easy adjustment options to make sure the helmet fits securely regardless of their head shape. The face visor protects without restricting the view. An additional option consists of integrated and individually adjustable eye protection. Both versions provide enough room for prescription glasses. An extensive accessories package is available to further adapt the helmet to individual needs and requirements.

## Innovative system approach

The helmet is part of the personal protective equipment for fire fighters. The HPS 7000 is therefore optimised for use with the Dräger FPS 7000 full face mask. The individually adjustable mask adaptation system of the HPS 7000 especially creates a safe mask-helmet combination with high wearing comfort. ▲

The new Dräger HPS 7000 fire fighting helmet

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# A blow to the prevalence of wildfires

Husqvarna South Africa is tackling the prevalence and devastation of forest fires through effective fire fighting equipment and its latest offering – the Husqvarna 580TS blower is designed with this in mind.

Husqvarna South Africa general manager for product support, Bronson Gunter, says that in recent years increased frequency and devastation of forest fires has become a worldwide trend. “Clearly, this means we need increasingly innovative ways to prevent and control fires,” he says.

Gunter says, however, that there also needs to be an awareness of the basics, since it has been proven that the use of fire breaks are by far the most effective means of dealing with fires and preventing disasters. It is no surprise then that, by law in South Africa, every landowner must prepare and maintain fire breaks, reports the company.

Husqvarna draws on its vast experience and technical know-how in the area of product research and development to provide effective solutions for the forestry sector.

Gunter says that creating fire breaks is not only an extremely difficult task and a high-risk exercise, but is also costly and labour intensive. “We set out to find a less labour-intensive answer to controlling the burning of fire breaks than the traditional method of using rakes and fire beaters.” He adds, “The answer clearly lay in the speed and efficiency of mechanised equipment. That is why Husqvarna’s introduction of the 580BTS blower into the South African market has elevated fire control to the next level and it undoubtedly makes a difference.”

## Introducing the 580BTS blower

The Husqvarna 580BTS is a commercial backpack blower that features a tube mounted throttle control, making it easy for the operator to regulate air flow. The 580BTS blower has an innovative fan design and a suitable

engine that results in impressive air flow and high air speed.

Husqvarna reports that the blowers X-Torq engine design reduces harmful exhaust emissions by up to 75 percent and increases fuel efficiency by up to 20 percent. The blowers fuel pump is specially designed for easy starting, while the commercial-grade air filter ensures longer operating times and trouble free use.

In addition, it is ergonomically designed with the operator’s comfort in mind, with an adjustable soft-grip handle, a load reducing harness with wide shoulder straps and a hip belt to ensure that it is easier to carry and operate for long periods.

*Husqvarna’s 580BTS blower mitigates the labour-intensive burning of fire breaks*



## Effective solution

Husqvarna South Africa notes that the 580BTS blower had been put through its paces in a variety of different fire control and fire break preparation applications. “After extensive product trials, Husqvarna’s 580BTS blower surpassed expectations. With an air-flow speed of 329 kilometres per hour combined with a volume capacity of more than 25,7 cubic metres per second, it was effective in preventative fire control as well as in the extinguishing of small or short grass fires, either directly or from the rear,” states Gunter.

Husqvarna recommends that fire control teams comprise at least two operators so that the fire can be

controlled from different directions. Once the operator is ready to clear or control the burn, the blower’s nozzle is directed at the base of the fire, starving it of oxygen and fuel.

By standing a few metres behind the fire and blowing half-throttle in the direction the operator wishes the fire to move, the 580BTS can fuel a wet or slow burning fire and successfully control a burn in the desired direction - an especially useful application for creating trace line fire breaks.

“With the blower at full throttle and the nozzle close to the ground, the operator can navigate through the trees, clearing loose debris and channeling this away from

the fire break. This opens a clean round break at the base of tree, protecting the bark from the fire. Cleaning debris from around trees would ordinarily be a more time consuming task without the use of a blower,” states Gunter.

According to Gunter, the use of the Husqvarna 580BTS is not only an effective means of creating fire breaks to combat the prevalence of wildfires, but is also environmentally friendly. “This is the best of both worlds. Not only is the 580BTS a more commercially viable solution, but it is one that allows all stakeholders in the forestry sector to contribute towards making this sector more ecofriendly,” he concludes.▲



## Unbeatable power, right when you need it.

Don't be fooled by the compact design. Under the shell of our new series of blower, there is an impressive blowing capacity. Thanks mainly to a unique, efficient fan design and especially if you choose the Husqvarna 580BTS, which is in a class of its own when it comes to air speeds and air flows. The new machines have the latest in engine technology, giving you more power and better fuel economy. They're solidly built and have air filters enabling them to withstand even the most dust-filled environments.



**HUSQVARNA 580BTS**  
75.6 cc - 3.1 kW - air speed 92.2 m/s - 11.8 kg

# Fire pavilion to be launched at IFSEC 2013

IFSEC South Africa, a prominent commercial security, homeland security and fire exhibition on the African continent, takes place on 18 to 20 June this year at the Gallagher Convention Centre.

Members of the security and fire supply chain industry will converge under one umbrella at the IFSEC exhibition, which has become a globally recognised event.

IFSEC South Africa looks forward to welcoming close to 6 000 buyers and senior-decision makers from across the African continent and other countries internationally, who are attracted to the exhibition each year. The event provides a platform for more than 200 local and international exhibitors to showcase their products and has become a must-attend event on the annual calendar for local and international security professionals.

South Africa has one of the fastest growing private security industries in the world with an annual turnover in the region of R50 billion. IFSEC reports that the industry includes approximately 9 000 registered companies that provide a range of security services.



Almost 6 000 visitors attend IFSEC annually

The exhibition stages educational seminars and networking opportunities, providing a platform for companies to highlight the latest security and fire and technology to key decision-makers and buyers at the highly interactive three-day event.

At IFSEC South Africa 2012, almost 6 000 visitors from the government, trade and end-user markets, as well as some 200 exhibitors were in attendance at the event.

IFSEC South Africa 2013 is once again set to bring the entire security and fire chain together under one roof, providing the world-class event that both exhibitors and visitors have come to expect, reports the organisation.

"IFSEC South Africa is considered the quintessential African event for stakeholders across all disciplines within the security sector," says Specialised Exhibitions Montgomery MD, Gary Corin - a member of UBM Montgomery. "It provides the perfect platform for exhibitors to generate high quality sales leads, launch and demonstrate their newest products and services and engage with leading security professionals," he says.

Corin believes that IFSEC is rich with networking opportunities and unrivalled marketing exposure, enabling companies to create new business opportunities and build a database of contacts with key decision-makers and buyers at a highly interactive three-day event. "After almost two decades, IFSEC South Africa remains the biggest event of its kind in Africa and has become the chosen destination for security professionals to source leading security innovations."

With a comprehensive and targeted media and marketing campaign in place, IFSEC South Africa has partnered with Hi Tech Security Solutions magazine as its official media partner and included Security News as its online international supporting media partner, as well as Fire and Rescue International, which is a supporting media partner.

A dedicated fire pavilion will be launched at this year's event, providing those exhibitors that specialise in fire safety products and solutions with the ideal opportunity to showcase products and services alongside a seminar programme. Visitors will also be able to see and compare the widest range of innovative fire solutions, while networking with industry experts from all aspects of fire safety.▲



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# Tornado wreaks havoc in southern US state

More than 800 homes were damaged after a tornado struck Mississippi

Westminster Presbyterian Church in a local Mississippi county, which flattened a pickup truck when debris flew off the building. The University of Southern Mississippi (USM) also had structural damage in the aftermath of the tornado, said Mississippi emergency management spokesman, Greg Flynn.

US officials estimated that it would take tens of millions of dollars to repair damage to USM, which is located in the city of Hattiesburg. The USM college board conducted an emergency voting session and unanimously moved to allow higher education commissioner, Hank Bounds, to sign contracts and take other actions without board approval to help the 16 000-student school recover. The tornado damaged eight or nine buildings at the southern edge of the school's campus. One of those, a former fire station converted to house the jazz program, had to be torn down after the tornado struck, said Bounds.

Most of the damage to the school is expected to be covered by a \$500-million insurance policy. ▲

US president, Barack Obama, declared the southern state of Mississippi a federal disaster area following a massive tornado that tore through a college campus and destroyed or damaged more than 800 homes in February this year.

Obama ordered federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts in Forrest and Lamar counties in the southern region of Mississippi, which were severely affected by the tornado and severe weather. The US National Weather Service says the tornado mustered a wind force of up to 273 kilometres per hour.

The tornado swept through nine Mississippi counties, injuring dozens of people leaving many homes and other buildings damaged and torn apart.

The US federal disaster assistance prepared itself for grant applications from individuals and business owners, as well as other recovery assistance programmes, reported US officials. The disaster assistance programme could include grants for temporary housing and home repairs and low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, reported officials.

Severely damaged buildings included a modern, multi-story

# Fires prevalent in southeastern US in March

A satellite image collated by the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) on 27 March this year, show many plumes of smoke from fires burning across the south-eastern region of the US.

The NASA image illustrate the many fires affecting several US states including Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. NASA reports that in the week leading up to 27 March, more than 1000 new fires were prevalent across the southern region of the US, with an additional 17 new large fires reported. Three of these large fires were quickly contained, as well as numerous smaller fires.

NASA reports that a large fire is defined by the National Interagency Fire Centre (NIFC) as a wildfire of 40 hectares or more occurring in timber or a wildfire of 121 hectares or more occurring in grassland.

In addition to these wildfires, various agencies conduct prescribed burning to either rid areas of undergrowth that could cause problems later during the hotter, drier months, or for agricultural purposes, states NASA.

The natural-colour satellite image that showcases the prevalence of fires across the south-eastern region of the US was collected by



Satellite images show many plumes of smoke burning across southern US

the moderate resolution Imaging Spectro-radiometer (MODIS) aboard NASA's Aqua satellite on 27 March 2013. The actively burning areas, detected by MODIS's thermal bands are outlined in red. ▲

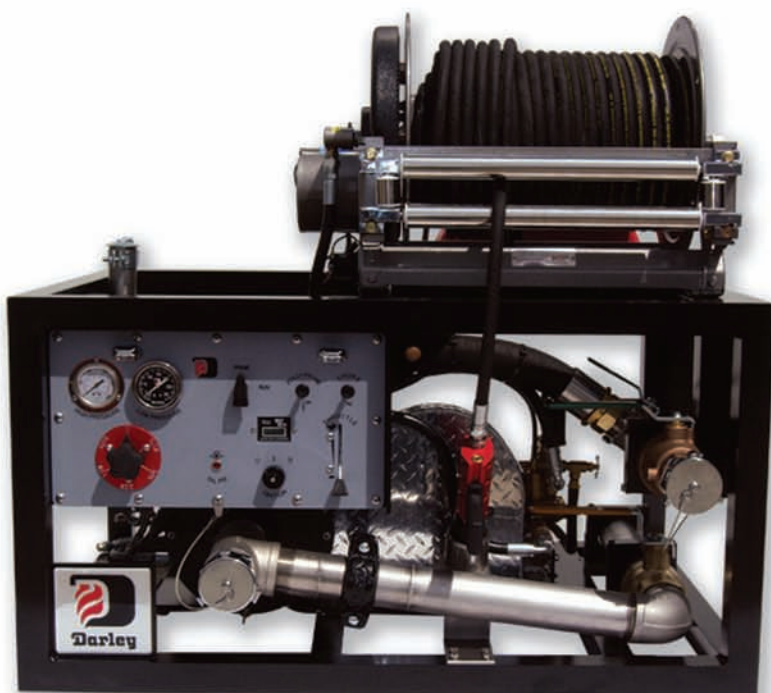
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*More than 8 000 people were displaced in the New Year's Day fires in Cape Town*



# All hands on deck after New Year's Day fires in Cape Town

**T**he Khayelitsha and Du Noon informal settlements both situated in and around Cape Town, South Africa, were struck by devastating fires on New Year's Day, displacing thousands of residents, who were still trying to piece their lives back together months after the incident.

The Western Cape government along with other charity organisations have assisted those affected by the fires that left more than 4 000 people homeless. The mayoral office in Cape Town initially moved the victims of the fire to land near the OR Tambo community hall in Khayelitsha Township. The site provided temporary housing and relocation intervention for about 300 families who were left homeless after the fires on New Year's Day.

Three men lost their lives in the fires as they were unable to escape the blaze that engulfed their homes. Another man sustained serious burn wounds and was admitted to the Tygerberg Hospital.

The Western Cape disaster management service stated that all elements were against the fire service owing to the difficult terrain. Access to the fire was restricted, necessitating the use of a helicopter. The exact cause of the blaze is still under investigation, it has however been reported that the fire started as a result of negligence.

A large contingent of public safety agencies were activated and this includes Disaster Risk Management, Fire and Rescue Services, Metro Emergency Medical Services and the City's law enforcement agencies, who assisted in bringing the flames under control. The city of Cape Town's disaster management unit employed a helicopter at first light to assist in containing the rapidly spreading fire, reported Cape Town's disaster management services.

The exact cause of the fires in the Du Noon and Khayelitsha townships was not ascertained, however, witnesses claim the fires were caused by people under the influence of alcohol.

In Du Noon, a fire in the Thembeni informal settlement was reported at 01h12 on New Year's Day. A total of 15 houses and 220 shacks were destroyed in the area. The fire also damaged the overhead electricity supply.

In Khayelitsha, in the townships' BM Section, a total of 120 shacks were destroyed in the fires that were first reported at 19h15 on 31 December 2012.

### Recovery efforts

The City of Cape Town's disaster response teams assisted victims of the fire with food parcels, blankets, baby packs, clothing, building material and emergency psychosocial trauma counselling.

The city reported that, by late February, water pipes were installed in the homes of the residents at the site around the OR Tambo community hall. "As part of fulfilling its commitment to being a caring city, Cape Town provides as much assistance as possible to residents trying to rebuild their lives after this disaster," said Cape Town mayoral committee member for human settlements, Tandeka Gqada.

"The city is aiming to complete this process within two months, however, unpredictable weather, the need for intensive community consultation and other unforeseen obstacles may delay the process," said Gqada.

The Provincial Disaster Management Centre of the Western Cape stated that it would support the City of Cape Town with the execution of its statutory obligation in terms of the Disaster Management act, 57 of 2002. The city provided families with enhanced fire kits and building materials to construct quality structures. This was done after the city commenced with site clearing and the construction of access roads for the new settlement area.

The City of Cape Town reports that it is undertaking a number of measures to prevent fires and ensure the safety of citizens. These include improving its fire and rescue services, community training, educational initiatives and innovative engineering solutions. ▶

► **Charity work**

Charity organisation, Gift of the Givers, provided residents of BM Section in Khayelitsha, which was the hardest hit by the fires, with 100 temporary shelters homes. The City of Cape Town provided residents affected in the fire with the balance of these temporary homes.

Gift of the Givers, however, made a commitment to provide the residents affected by the fires with 100 permanent homes and on 23 March this year, the charity handed over the initial set of houses to the families affected by the New Year's Day fires. The charity announced that the second phase of additional housing commenced on 24 March.

Gift of the Givers branch manager for Western Cape, Gawa Sayed, says "Currently, we are completing construction of 64 homes that will be ready in two weeks. We are also working on another 12 homes thereafter. We have another team working on 'snag' issues on a further 12 houses and then we will have 100 homes completed."

The houses are three-by-six metre units made with corrugated coloured sheets as specified by the Western Cape government, who provided the land and other sanitary facilities. "We did our own lining, using six millimetre new-tech boards," explains Sayed. Additional custom specifications on the house include the installation of solar panels for lights and charging of mobile phones. The homes are fully painted and feature concrete floors, with cupboards, and insulation in ceiling.

"Those who have visited this new structure, designed by us and built according to our specifications, are in absolute awe as to the effort dedicated in providing something of real quality for free to the disadvantaged masses in our country," stated Gift of the Givers in a media statement.

International organisation that coordinates the distribution of food and other life-saving aid worldwide, Stop Hunger Now, notes that with any disaster of this scale food security of the victims' remains and important issue, both immediately and during rebuilding efforts.

Stop Hunger Now (SHN) Southern Africa acting branch manager, David Jacobs, said, "Our initial assessment with the city disaster management unit and partner non-governmental organisations (NGOs) was that city resources would be able to deal with the immediate need for food, with NGOs needing to design a relief effort during the rebuilding phase.

The charitable organisation, SHN South Africa, together with other NGO partners set up temporary feeding centres near disaster sites to ensure that members of the community had access to a hot meal each night after daily rebuilding efforts. One feeding scheme was opened in early

January in Khayelitsha settlement and another at the Apostolic Faith Mission hall near the site of the fire in Du Noon settlement.

"Around 20 families benefitted from the first day of operation. They were all very grateful for the meal and clothes, especially those who are on treatment where it is very important to have a nutritious meal," said Apostolic Faith Mission's, Pastor Templeton Zweni.

Over 13 000 meals were made available by SHN South Africa and its partners to the families affected by the fires, as they were involved in rebuilding efforts in both Du Noon and Khayelitsha.▲

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# Farm workers accept wage after series of protests



Farm workers clashed with police in the violent protests in the Western Cape



A teen gestures to police in the farm riots in De Doorns

In January this year, the Western Cape, South Africa, was overcome with renewed farm protests that turned violent as farm workers demanded higher wages.

The farm worker's riots reignited at the start of the new year, after no resolution was made after the initial strikes in 27 August last year, when farm workers demanded an increase in their minimum daily wage from R69 to R150.

The Western Cape Disaster Management reports that from 9 to 15 January 2013, protests took place in the City of Cape Town, Cape Winelands, Overberg and West Coast districts. Primary arterials were targeted and an increase in farmworker intimidation resulted.

The municipal areas affected by the farm worker strikes during this period include the City of Cape Town, Drakenstein, Cederberg, Bergrivier, Witzenberg, Theewaterskloof, Langerberg, Swellendam and Kannaland.

In De Doorns, farm workers started protesting on 5 November last year, about unsatisfactory working conditions and to demand an

increase in pay. Other factors that initiated the riots was the increase in electricity tariffs in the region. Farm workers also protested against illegal evictions, illegal immigrant workers and labour brokers, reports the Western Cape Local Government. Close to 6 000 farm workers took to the streets in De Doorns in protest against low wages.

In Grabouw, protestors raced through the streets during the clashes with riot police. Dozens of protestors looted at least one supermarket in the area – forcing local police to stand guard over other shops in the town. The town of Villiersdorp took on violent scenes as rebellious youth engaged in sporadic incidents of violence, pelting homes and the local high school with rocks. A liquor store was looted and burned to the ground; however, no casualties were reported by police or local residents.

Farmers' group Agri-Wes Cape spokeswoman, Porchia Adams, said some workers had been coerced by protesters into staying away from their jobs. "They said they had been threatened that their houses would be burned down if they went to work, so it was not worth the risk for them,"

Adams told media.

The Western Cape government states that it is very difficult to quantify the cost of the damages as most losses were related to private property.

Western Cape Disaster Management conducted a debriefing exercise to facilitate lessons learnt and challenges relevant to the management of the incident. "The Western Cape Disaster Management centre also benchmarked against the North-West Province relevant to the Marikana incident. These lessons will allow stakeholders and organisations an improved response to similar incidents in future," reports the Western Cape Local Government.

In late January, the Department of Labour announced a system of imposing new minimum wages for farm workers based on recommendations by the majority members of Employment Conditions Commission (ECC). The new level of the minimum wage was set at R105 per day for employees, who work nine hours a day or R11,66 per hour for the period - 1 March 2013 to 28 February 2014.





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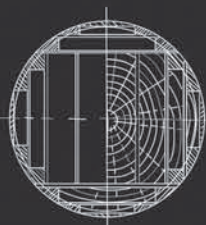


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# SA fire detection system takes off in Africa

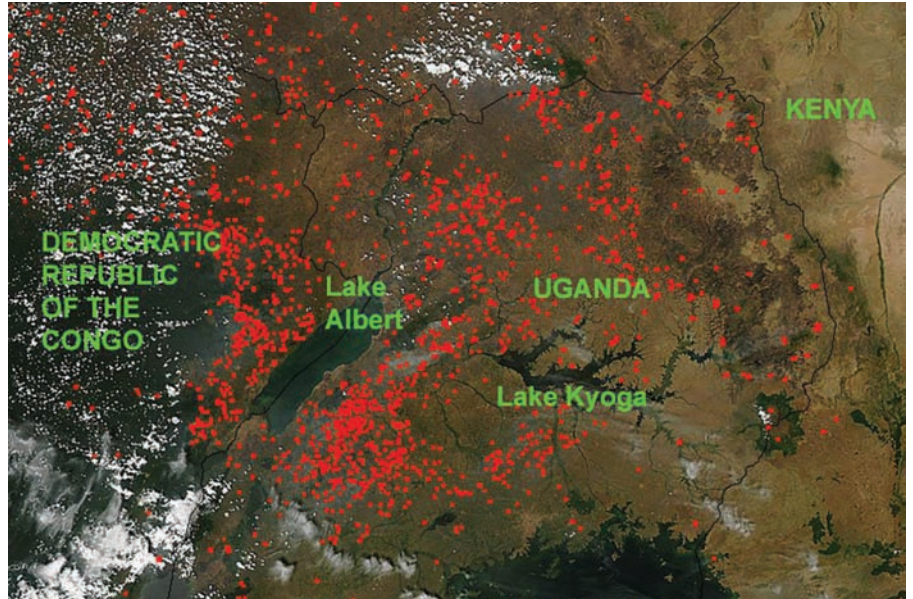
The South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIRs) Meraka Institute was awarded a contract to apply its locally developed fire detection technology in Angola by the country's Ministry of Technology.

The Angolan Ministry of Technology, along with the country's National Technology Centre and the CSIR signed a memorandum of understanding that would see the Meraka Institute implement its satellite-based advanced fire information system (AFIS) for the fire-prone southern African country, reports the CSIR. The AFIS system will provide the Angolan fire industry with a real-time wildfire detection, monitoring and alerting tool, using satellite sensors and images to tackle the high incidence of fires in the region.

Senior CSIR scientist and remote sensing specialist stationed at Meraka Institute, Philip Frost, led the research into accessing satellite data for use as a fire detection tool. The success of the AFIS system in South Africa sparked interest in implementing the system in Africa and abroad, says Frost.

The AFIS system alerts disaster managers, fire fighters, farmers and forest managers with near-real-time alerts of fires and burned areas. The system scans for small fires that are over 50 metres squared and up to six times within a 24-hour period and in between five-and ten-hectares every 15 minutes for larger fires.

CSIR Meraka Institute information and communication technology manager, Lee Annamalai, says that the council plans to implement AFIS in several other countries. He says that the system is being piloted in Chile, Croatia, the US and all the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries. Annamalai says that the success of the AFIS system is an indication of the potentially significant contribution that Earth observation can make to the South African economy, adding that the



CSIR employs satellite data in its AFIS fire detection system

robust Earth observation technology capability is alive and well in the country.

## AFIS background

In 2004, the AFIS system was developed and launched at the CSIR's satellite application centre together with fellow researchers at the University of Maryland in the United States.

The sophisticated AFIS processing system uses Earth observation satellites from the National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA) and Europe, which within minutes of passing over a specific area anywhere in southern Africa, can detect hotspots or locate fires.

Frost recognised the benefits of an early-warning fire system whilst in post-graduate studies where he was focusing on satellite-based fire monitoring underneath power lines. He says that he assisted South Africa's electricity utility, Eskom, to reduce the damage to their transmission lines and prevent power supply disruptions.

Under Frost's leadership and supported by Eskom, the AFIS alert system combined mobile phone technology to generate critical near-real-time warnings of fires within predefined areas of interest. At the

time in 2006, the coupling of remote sensing with mobile technology for alert messaging was a world-first. Today it is used to alert fire protection association's countrywide, reports the CSIR.

Frost then spearheaded an agreement with Eskom and the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) to broadcast data from the CSIR and Eskom during the television weather bulletin free of charge, making the SABC the first public broadcaster, globally, to televise actual fire maps.

This was followed by yet another innovation, this time for mobile phone users. Working with the space science and engineering group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the United States, Frost and his team developed a technology demonstrator that enables near-real-time mobile phone access to satellite information on weather conditions. They played a key role in customising the product to provide local information to users in southern Africa.

Frost has since used his expertise in satellite-based fire monitoring to present workshops like the committees on Earth observing satellites (CEOS) members on remote sensing for disaster management. ▲



# Working together to ensure our future

Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical and Disaster Management Services  
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2013

VENUE: Expo Centre, Johannesburg



## CONFERENCE PRESENTATION HIGHLIGHTS

Presentations	Presenters
Creating Partnerships for Effective Fire Service Delivery	Chris Gilbert: Managing Director Rural Metro. Member of SAESI and IFE (London). Served with the Pietermaritzburg Fire service in excess of 15 years.
Protective Clothing: Design, Development and manufacturing to meet the demands of the 21st Century	Dr Jim Ziegler: Chairman: ASTM Chemical Clothing Committee and specialist: NFPA Hazmat Clothing
Managing Employment Relations within the Emergency Services	Roland G Hendricks: Acting Director: Disaster Management and Fire & Rescue Services: Gauteng Dept Local Government & Housing
The Role of Mobile Technology in Fire Safety	Ed Jowitz: Chief Executive Officer: Sysman Group
Revising the South African Fire Brigade Services legislation to ensure effective, efficient and sustainable service delivery in the 21st Century	Moses Musiwalo Khangale: Senior Manager: Fire Services Coordination National Disaster Management Centre Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
Breakthrough Technology for the 21st Century	Bill Ballantyne: President and Chief Operating Officer: PyroLance
Financial Management to ensure effective and efficient Fire and Emergency Services Delivery	Tshepo Makola: Executive Director: Johannesburg Emergency Management Services Department
Working together to ensure the implementation of an effective and efficient Incident Management System (IMS) on National and Provincial Roads in South Africa	Nomsa Modise: Project Manager: Incident Management System (IMS):SANRAL
International Standardization in Disaster & Emergency Management	Moshema Mosia: Head of Department: Disaster and Emergency Management Services Department: City of Ekurhuleni and Immediate Past President of SAESI
The need for and overview of the National Fire Services Framework, ensuring our future	Jurgens Dyssel: Manager: Fire Services Directorate: Fire Services Coordination DPLG
The role of the LGSETA in ensuring skills development in the Fire and Emergency Services in South Africa	Ntombenhle Nkosi: CEO: LGSETA
Fire and Life Safety Education: Learn Not To Burn Preschool Programme South Africa	Rodney Eksteen: Assistant Director: Fire Brigade Services: Western Cape Provincial Government
Petrochemical, Oil and Gas Emergencies and the Urban/Industrial interface	Andre Tomlinson: Regional Sales Manager - Middle East & Africa: Williams Fire & Hazard

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**MAY 2013**

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# Stand numbers correct at time of print

## HALL 7

Stand	Exhibitor
1	Bytes Technology
2	Alcatel-Lucent Enterprise
3	Tecmed
4	Shanghai Exhibition Service
5	
6	Khuselo/Aurecon
7	MSA South Africa
8	Delinds/SFA and Centrum
9	
10	
11	
12	Angelo Kater/AK Foams
13	PIER
14	SANRAL
15	
16	
17	Ningo Yunfeng Fire Safety Equipment and Taizhou Sanjiang Global
18	Tecmed
19	
20	ETS Emergency Training Solutions
21	ChemSystems
22	Dosetech
23	Unqondo
24	
25	Drager
26	Department of Cooperative Governance (CoGTA)
27	Shaoxing Hangrun Fire Control
28	LG Seta
29	Skills Train
30	SAESI/Emergency Services Chaplaincy of Southern Africa
31	Interact Media Defined
32	Working On Fire
33	Luoyang Langchao Fire Tech
34	Shangyu Equipment
35	Department of Cooperative Governance (CoGTA)
36	Dräger South Africa
37	Coltri Compressors (Breathing Air Systems)
38	Unqondo
39 and 40	Fire Raiders
41	Autometer
42	Arrabon Trading

Stand	Exhibitor
43 and 44	Angus Fire
45 - 48	Fire Fighting Equipment Africa
49 and 50	The Sysman Group
51 and 52	JHB Mining Supplies
53 and 54	Fire Raiders
55 and 56	Godiva
57 - 60	Fire Raiders
61	
62	
63	Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa
64 and 65	Toil Safe/Scott Safety
66	Rural metro
67	Tempest
68 and 69	SafeQuip
70	Fire Fighting Logistics/Fremtac/Designation Hose/Woodlands Fire
71	CMJ Services/Fire Break
72	Imperial Fire
73	SABS
74	FleetAfrica
75	LSA/Lincoln
S1	
S2	Uniontech
S3	C3 Shared Services
S4	Vanguard
S5	
S6 and S7	Marcé
S8	Fire Raiders
S10	Unique Hydra
S11	
S12 – S14	Mercedes Benz SA
S15	Hamilton
S16 and S17	Rosenbauer
S18	Fire Fighting Equipment Africa
S19	
C1	
C2	
C3	
	Training Room Sysman
	Exhibitor Theatre / Demo Room
F1	Conspace
F2	Holmatro



# SAESI assembles industry under one roof

The South African Emergency Services Institute (SAESI) is set to host its 29<sup>th</sup> international conference exhibition and training event at the Expo Centre at Nasrec, South Africa from 12 to 15 May this year.

The conference will be hosted by SAESI incoming president, Ofentse Sam Masibi, who will present the SAESI presidential inaugural address, which includes a message of appreciation to the sponsors of this year's event.

SAESI 2013 will gather all the stakeholders in the fire, rescue, emergency medical and disaster management services industry under one banner in line with achieving its goal and the title of this year's event - 'Working together to ensure our future'. The theme highlights the need for change, cooperation and interventions by all stakeholders to ensure that the needs of the fire, rescue emergency and disaster management services are addressed, whilst ensuring a green and sustainable future for our world, reports SAESI.

The event will host delegates from national, provincial and local government, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the research and education fraternities from Africa and across the world. Notable local public service entities to attend the event will be the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), South African Police Service (SAPS), South African National Roads Agency Limited (SANRAL), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Eskom, and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS).

SAESI 2013 will consist of five segments namely, the official conference, a trade exhibition, emergency services challenges, the SAESI annual general meeting (AGM) and a public information, education and relations programme (PIER) programme.

## Conference

The SAESI 2013 conference will explore issues relating to the fire, rescue, emergency and disaster management services industry. This

includes the contribution that the industry can make towards reducing carbon footprint and greenhouse gases, energy consumption and efficiency, renewable and sustainable energy, waste reduction and recycling and reducing the demand on natural resources.

The conference will also look into strategies that can be used to transform the industry to meet the demands in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in terms of legislation, as well as funding mechanisms, resources, vehicle and equipment, mutual aid agreements and national and international response teams.

Another focus of the conference will be to strategise and confront training and leadership development challenges in order to meet the demands of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The conference will begin on Wednesday 15 May, with the official opening of this year's conference to be conducted by the Executive Mayor of the City of Ekurhuleni, Mondli Gungubele.

## Events

A range of special presentations and awards will be made during the SAESI conference this year. This includes a presentation of long-service medals to SAESI members. The SAESI student of the year award as well as the SAESI examination awards and trophies will be presented on the opening day of the conference.

SAESI 2013 speakers include a presentation on the 'Fire rescue and disaster management services delivery in Gauteng' by Disaster Management and Fire and Rescue Services: Gauteng acting director, Roland G Hendricks.

Rural Metro Emergency Management Services chief fire officer, Lenny Naidoo, will make a presentation on 'Creating partnerships for effective fire service delivery' on Wednesday 15 May. The international contingent of speakers will see the Bellingham Fire Department (USA) company officer, Christian Carson, speaking on 'Fitness and wellness requirements for

fire and emergency services officials and practitioners in the 21<sup>st</sup> century' on Thursday 16 May.

Among the highlights on the final day of the conference on Friday 17 May, is a presentation by Local Government sector education and training authority (LGSETA) CEO, Ntombenhle Nkosi, who will speak on the role of LGSETA in ensuring skills development in the fire and emergency services industry in South Africa.

## Trade exhibition

SAESI 2013 will have an exhibitor demonstration area. This product presentation area will be held inside Hall 7 at the Expo Centre at Nasrec. The venue accommodates up to 50 seats for exhibitors and companies, who will have the opportunity to present their products.

The list of exhibitors at the conference feature up to 20 prominent stakeholders in the fire, rescue and emergency services industry and includes SANRAL, SANDF and LGSETA, among numerous other private companies.

## Emergency services challenges

A range of learning symposiums and training events are scheduled to take place throughout SAESI 2013. The challenges and learning symposiums to take place includes an EMS challenge, high-angle rescue, vehicle extrication, urban search and rescue (USAR) and a combat challenge.

## SAESI 2013 event schedule

**12 May 2013** Annual general meeting (AGM)

**12 to 14 May** Learning symposium, skills development for vehicle extrication, high angle rescue and EMS.

**15 May** Opening ceremony, challenges and competitions.

**15 to 17 May** SAESI conference

**17 May** Prize giving and closing ceremony.

SAESI 2013 event sponsors include the City of Ekurhuleni, LGSETA, South Africa Local Government Association (SALGA), SAESI and the Provincial Disaster Management Advisory committee. ▲



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 Bradford or Shaun Cloete  
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 Cell: 082 555 3870 or 082 555 3873  
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Hall: 7  
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Emergency medical equipment

## Autometer



Hall: 7  
 Stand/site no: 41  
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Autometer will be exhibiting a range of  
mobile explosion proof lighting, explosion  
proof ATEX fire fighting torches, the  
most powerful self-contained handheld  
search light for search and rescue,  
vehicle mounted search lights. We will  
be featuring the F2-T thermal imaging  
camera, specifically designed to enable  
fire fighters to see through smoke and  
to identify and quickly locate targets in  
the fire. We will also exhibit hand portable  
helicopter landing lights.

## Bytes Systems Integration and Alcatel- Lucent Enterprise



Hall: 7  
 Stand/site no: 1 and 2  
 Person to ask for on the stand: Elize van  
 Vuren (Bytes) or Craig Taylor (Alcatel-  
 Lucent Enterprise)  
 Tel: 011 205 8136 or 012 648 3060  
 Cell: 083 347 5573 or 082 55 22347

Bytes Systems Integration and Alcatel-  
Lucent Enterprise emergency services  
software.

Integrated and tailored emergency and  
public safety models.

Integrated 112Eco-System/EENA's PSAP  
models.

Disaster recovery and homeland security.  
Emergency call taking versus call dispatch.  
Public safety network responders and  
urban security.

Unified communications, command and  
control, call centres, video conferencing  
and voice loggers.

Alcatel-Lucent is an active member of  
National Emergency Number Association  
and European Emergency Number  
Association's Advisory Board.

## C3 Shared Services



Hall: 7  
 Stand/site no: S3  
 Person to ask for on the stand:  
 Brendon Cowley  
 Tel: 011 3122 041  
 Cell: 082 870 1369

Email: marketing@c3ss.com  
C3 Shared Services turnkey intelligent fire  
and security specialists, will be showcasing  
the SigniFire range of intelligent fire  
detection from Fike. SigniFire is a 'camera  
based' turnkey video, flame, smoke and  
reflective flame detection solution that  
detects smoke or fire at its source. The  
advantages of this visual fire detection  
system over conventional systems would  
include early warning capabilities, NFPA  
approvals, suited to large open areas and  
can also be used as a security surveillance  
system.

## Centrum Guardian Project



Hall: 7  
 Stand/site no: 8  
 Person to ask for on the stand: Rachel or  
 Dineo  
 Tel: 078 342 0652  
 Cell: 078 342 0652  
 Email: info@centrumguardian.com  
 The Centrum Guardian Project recognises  
and showcases incredible stories  
about the people in the South African  
emergency services: fire fighters, rescue  
technicians, paramedics, lifeguards, off-  
road and sea rescue volunteers etc.

## ChemSystems



Hall: 7  
 Stand/site no: 21  
 Person to ask for on the stand: Andre  
 Schutte  
 Tel: 021 534 5231  
 Cell: 083 252 1411  
 Email: andre.schutte@chemsystems.co.za

ChemSystems manufactures foam  
concentrates under licence to Dr  
Sthamer Hamburg in South Africa for the  
Sub Saharan African market and also  
manufactures its own brands of Class A,  
hi-expansion and aerial bombing foams.  
ChemSystems are ISO 9001 and ISO 14 000  
accredited with excellent technical and  
sales support.

## CMJ Services T/A Firebreak



Hall: 7  
 Stand/site no: 71  
 Person to ask for on the stand: Ducan  
 Ramsden or Blane de Meillon  
 Tel: 011 908 6960  
 Cell: 079 493 7958  
 Email: blane@firebreaksa.co.za

We will be highlighting our association  
with Du Pont whereby Firebreak is the  
sole importer and supplier of the Du Pont  
range of Tychem TK, level A, gas tight suits.  
The designer of the Du Pont Tychem TK  
suit, Dr Jim Zeigler, will be out from the USA  
and will be discussing and presenting the  
Tychem TK suits on our stand. We will also  
exhibit the full range of Du Pont Chemical  
protective clothing as well as SCBA sets,  
gas detectors and fire fighting equipment  
such as nozzles, hoses, and monitors etc.  
Fire fighting helmets, gloves, boots etc will  
also be on display on our stand.

## Coltri Compressors



Hall: 7  
 Stand/site no: 37  
 Person to ask for on the stand: Steve  
 Moller  
 Tel: 011 402 3542  
 Cell: 082 449 3576  
 Email: steve@coltri.co.za

Coltri Compressors - high-pressure  
compressors for breathing air for fire  
fighting, scuba diving and paintball.  
Aerofecnica Coltri, established in 1982,  
designs and produces high pressure  
compressors for breathable air and  
technical gases.

## Con-Space



Hall: 8  
 Stand/site no: E2  
 Person to ask for on the stand:  
 Johan Muller



Tel: 011 894 3205  
Cell: 079 880 5251  
Email: johan@fireraiders.co.za

Search and rescue equipment

## Delinds Publications



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 8  
Person to ask for on the stand: Debbie Meyer  
Tel: 011 886 5985  
Cell: 083 266 6662  
Email: delinds@mweb.co.za

Emergency services yearbooks and buyers guides

## Department of Cooperative Governance – CoGTA



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 26 and 35  
Person to ask for on the stand: Mzamani Khoza  
Tel: 012 336 5731  
Email: mzamanik@ndmc.gov.za

Provide information on intergovernmental relations, disaster risk management and fire services coordination

## Designation Hose

Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 70  
Person to ask for on the stand: Bev Hallowes  
Tel: 011 791 0550  
Cell: 083 378 0862  
Email: gimp@iafrica.com

Designation Hose offers a variety of specialist high pressure hoses. Designation Hose is the agent for Orox industrial and agricultural hoses. In addition, Designation is the agent for Protek and Viper fire fighting branches and offers an extensive range of fire fighting hoses.

## Dosetech



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 22  
Person to ask for on the stand: Mike Feldon or Dirk Putter  
Tel: 021 511 0840  
Cell: 083 251 9346  
Email: firedos@dosetech.co.za

FireDos admix foam system; Akron monitors and nozzles; Mueller/Jones hydrants and valves will be on display at the conference.

## Dräger South Africa



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 25 and 36  
Person to ask for on the stand: Lawrence Kelly

Tel: 011 465 9959  
Email: Lawrence.kelly@draeger.com

Experience Dräger's exhibition of 'head-to-toe' safety products for the fire fighter. See some of the world's most advanced system technologies and don't miss the new Dräger fire fighter helmet HPS 7000, or forget to visit the challenge area where the Dräger mobile training gallery can be seen in action.

## Emergency Services Chaplaincy of Southern Africa



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 30  
Person to ask for on the stand: Chaplain on duty  
Tel: 011 393 1742  
Cell: 084 811 6322  
Email: info@scsa.org.za

The Chaplaincy is a voluntary organisation of persons rendering Pastoral support to the personnel of the various disciplines of emergency services.

## ETS Emergency Training Solutions



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 20  
Person to ask for on the stand: Twoboys Ndwamato  
Tel: 016 363 0253/4  
Cell: 072 980 2046  
Email: twoboys@etsafrica.co.za

We are a training, operations and development centre. We will give more information in the form of pamphlets and also have a display of our training divisions from medical, rescue, hazmat and fire training.

## Fire Fighting Equipment Africa



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 45 – 48 and S18  
Person to ask for on the stand: Marius Koekemoer or Kevin Naidoo  
Tel: 018 290 9520  
Cell: 082 850 2601  
Email: marius@rfrescue.co.za

Fire and rescue equipment

## Fire Fighting Logistics



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 70  
Person to ask for on the stand: Herman Human  
Tel: 012 807 5141  
Cell: 083 457 6730  
Email: herman@fflsa.co.za  
Fire fighting equipment, rope rescue equipment, fire hydrants, fire uniforms and ceremonial wear

## Fire Raiders



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 39 and 40, 53 and 54 and S8  
Person to ask for on the stand: Trevor Fiford, Henry Ludick, Johan Muller, Tshidi Bengu and Jaco Keet.  
Tel: 011 894 3205  
Email: info@fireraiders.co.za

Fire Raiders provides the latest trends in local manufactured vehicles, refurbishment programs, new imported vehicles as well as specialist trucks. Further to this is the latest equipment for high-rise fires, hazmat, rescue and disaster management. We will have live outdoor demonstrations, guest speakers, practical sessions as well as the completion of a unique and very special hand painting by, Paul Treleven, which will be raffled out on the last day on our stand.

## Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 63  
Person to ask for on the stand: Simon Ranhlagoe  
Tel: 011 397 1618  
Cell: 072 895 5981  
Email: simonr@fpasa.co.za

The Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa (FPASA) was established in 1973 to provide a specialised fire safety management, technical and training service to industry, commerce, local government and society at large. Today the role of the FPASA covers education, information, advice, consultancy and training.

## FleetAfrica



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 74  
Person to ask for on the stand: Lollita Pitso  
Tel: 011 523 4300  
Cell: 082 050 1944  
Email: lollita.pitso@fleetafrica.com

FleetAfrica provides specialised fleet management and full maintenance leasing solutions to both public and private sector clients. Our solutions include full maintenance leasing, operating lease, managed maintenance and sale and leaseback. We partner with our clients to understand their unique business challenges and will design an outsourced fleet solution tailored to their specific business requirements.

## Fremtac Fire and Rescue



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 70  
Person to ask for on the stand: Jimmy Croucamp  
Cell: 082 412 6319  
Email: jimmy.c@fremtac.com

High angle rescue equipment, technical and confined space rescue equipment, fire fighting equipment, pneumatic line deployment equipment, safety glasses and eye wear, swift water rescue equipment, ropes, lanyards, all types of rescue harnesses, tripods, rescue winches, rescue helmets and rope rescue gloves.

## Gauteng Public Information Education and Relation Working Group (PIER)

Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 13  
Person to ask for on the stand: Aaron Mafunda  
Tel: 011 999 5386



Cell: 082 318 8011  
Email: aaron.mafunda@ekurhuleni.gov.za  
Educational material including books including safety messages etc.

### Godiva and Hale fire pumps, IDEX Corporation



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 55 and 56  
Person to ask for on the stand: Daniel van Rensburg  
Tel: 041 360 9907  
Cell: 083 263 1796  
Email: dvanrensburg@idexcorp.com

Latest addition to our portable fire fighting pump range, the GP17/10. (pumping 2 450 litres per minute in a man portable package)

Our well-known and tested Prima vehicle mounted pump with a fully integrated compressed air foam package built on and around the pump.  
Range of floating, backpack and special application pumps for all fire fighting needs.  
Range of electronics suitable for the fire fighting environment.  
Local representation and support from manufacturer.

### Hamilton Hydraulic Services

Hall: 7



Stand/site no: S15  
Person to ask for on the stand: Jim Hamilton  
Tel: 011 828 1083  
Cell: 082 893 1883  
Email: hhshurst@netactive.co.za

co.za

Lukas and Hurst rescue equipment. Vetter lifting bags.

### Holmatro



Hall: 8  
Stand/site no: E1  
Person to ask for on the stand: Johan Muller  
Tel: 011 894 3205  
Cell: 079 880 5251  
Email: johan@fireraiders.co.za

Hydraulic rescue equipment and assist tools.

### Imperial Fire



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 72  
Person to ask for on the stand: Juanita or Lilly  
Tel: 031 700 2650  
Cell: 078 099 0012  
Email: Juanita@imperial-armour.com

Imperial Armour's diverse range of products caters for every aspect of personal protection. Our Imperial fire range includes emergency rescue

services as well as fire rescue. Our products are manufactured in our factory in Durban and are quality controlled by ISO; all products conform to either NFPA or EN standards. Clients include local municipalities as well as international.

### Interact Media Defined

Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 31  
Person to ask for on the stand: Sean Macnamara  
Tel: 011 579 4940  
Cell: 082 929 1948  
Email: admin@interactmedia.co.za

### Johannesburg Mining Supplies



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 51 and 52  
Person to ask for on the stand: Hans Dehnke  
Tel: 011 837 9617  
Cell: 083 265 4859  
Email: jms@jhbmining.co.za  
Sava: Pneumatic pipe plugs for municipal sewers and hazmat high-pressure lifting bags

Spechtenhauser pumps: sewer and dirty water pumps  
Twinsaw: counter rotating rescue saws

### Khuselo/Aurecon



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 6  
Person to ask for on the stand: Gerhard Oberholzer  
Tel: 012 668 9000  
Cell: 081 270 0230  
Email: aletta@vertel.co.za

Base radios, hand held radios for two way radio communication. GEMC3 disaster and emergency services products etc.

### LG SETA



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 28  
Person to ask for on the stand: Lindiwe Sibeko, Kagisho Kganane and Memory Bhengu  
Tel: 011 456 8579  
Cell: 082 634 7154 or 072 869 1568  
Email: kagishok@lgseta.co.za;  
Email: lindiwes@lgseta.co.za;  
Email: memory@lgseta.co.za;  
Email: josephinet@lgseta.co.za

Newsletters, learnership brochures, subject matter experts, by-laws brochures and marketing and promotional material

### LSA Systems



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 75  
Person to ask for on the stand:

Louis D'Aubrey  
Tel: 011 907 1192  
Cell: 083 236 6399  
Email: Louis@lincolnsa.com

Reelize, a division of LSA Systems, is pleased to exhibit our range of hose reels designed and manufactured for the fire fighting industry. Our range of hose reels are manufactured in the USA, and designed for fire fighting vehicles, whether for first response, or the large traditional fire truck. The hose reels are available in stainless steel, galvanised steel, or a special powder coated finish. Cox reels are designed with the end user in mind; therefore you can be assured of a user-friendly and robust hose reel. In addition to hose reels, LSA Systems also offers AODD pumps, fire suppression systems and environmental spill kits.

### Luoyang Langchao Fire Technology Co



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 33  
Person to ask for on the stand: Han Zhanhong  
Tel: 0086 0379 6990222  
Cell: 0086 1393 8878119  
Email: lylangchao@lylangchao.com

Luoyang Langchao fire science and technology company is one of the largest fire extinguishing manufacturers in China. It specialises in all kinds of fire fighting extinguishing agents, fire fighting equipment and different fire fighting projects. We have an integrated system, including the independent R and D, production lines and sales network in China. Our comprehensive strength and competitiveness rank top in the security and safety field.

### Marcé Fire Fighting Technology



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: S6 and S7  
Person to ask for on the stand: Jaco van der Merwe or Jan Steyn  
Tel: 012 742 9200  
Cell: 082 668 8730  
Cell: 083 375 7135

Email: jaco@marce.co.za or jan@marce.co.za

Fire fighting equipment and vehicles

### Mercedes-Benz South Africa



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: S12, S13 and S14  
Person to ask for on the stand: Princess Ndlhovu  
Tel: 012 677 5936  
Cell: 082 788 8085  
Email: pricess.ndlhovu@daimler.com

Mercedes-Benz Commercial Vehicles will display EMS conversions, which include the Mercedes-Benz Sprinter, Vito panel van, Atego and Unimog. These vehicles are preferred as ambulances, mobile ICU's, mobile clinics and rescue vehicles.



## MSA South Africa



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 7  
Person to ask for on the stand:  
Robbie Taitz  
Tel: 011 610 2600  
Cell: 083 227 1140  
Email: robbie.taitz@msasafety.com

Industrial head protection, self-contained breathing apparatus, portable instruments and sensors, fixed gas and flame detection instruments and fall protection.

## Ningbo Yunfeng Fire Safety Equipment Co

Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 17  
Person to ask for on the stand: Wang Xinze  
Tel: 0086 0574 62003923  
Cell: 0086 1395 8368769  
Email: walter@yunfengfire.com

Ningbo Yunfeng Fire Safety Equipment Co is the leading manufacturer in China.

Main products: valves in both in brass and aluminium, cylinder fire extinguishers and all kinds of accessories; landing valves, fire hoses and couplings, hydrant system fire blanket, plastic parts. Approval and certificate: BSI ISO9001:2000, CE approved, EN3 approved, PED approved, UL approved.

## Rosenbauer South Africa

Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: S16 and S17  
Person to ask for on the stand: Michael von der Heyde  
Tel: 011 805 7912  
Cell: 072 925 5959  
Email: michael.vdh@rosenbauer.com  
Fire vehicles, portable pumps, fire equipment and safety clothing.

## Rural Metro Emergency Management Services



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 66  
Person to ask for on the stand: Busani Ndlovu  
Tel: 033 345 0080  
Cell: 076 983 2560  
Email: ndlovub@ruralmetrosa.com

Fire fighter training, E-learning, disaster management

## SAESI



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 30  
Person to ask for on the stand: Salome Van den Berg, Mogosi Monageng and Grace Leotlela.  
Tel: 011 660 5672  
Cell: 082 415 5817

Email: info@saesi.com

The Southern African Emergency Services Institute (SAESI) has been in existence for 52 years and runs with the objective of creating opportunities to enhance the fire and emergency services in South Africa.

## Safequip



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 68  
Person to ask for on the stand:  
Dawid Nash  
Tel: 021 907 2500  
Email: info@safequip.co.za

Fire equipment

## Safety First Association



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 8  
Person to ask for on the stand: Debbie Meyer  
Tel: 011 886 5985  
Cell: 083 266 6662

Email: delinds@mweb.co.za  
Safety and health posters, books and magazines

## Sanral

Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 14  
Person to ask for on the stand:  
Manjula Reddy  
Tel: 012 844 8000  
Cell: 083 325 9228  
Email: reddyman@nra.co.za

## Shangyu City Limac Fire Fighting Equipment Co



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 34  
Person to ask for on the stand: Dennis  
Tel: 0086 575 82030612  
Cell: 0086 135 75520902  
Email: caokangming@hotmail.com

Shangyu City Limac Fire Fighting Equipment Co which was established in 1997 professionally produce all kinds of fire extinguishers, valves, small cylinders, fire extinguishing system and related parts etc and provide professional services for global customers. The products are sold at home and abroad, and greatly praised by customers.

## Shaoxing Hongrun Fire Control Equipment



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 27  
Person to ask for on the stand: Ren Hongfang  
Tel: 0086 0575 82716911  
Cell: 0086 1390 5843957

Email: honer@hr-fire.com

Shaoxing Hongrun Fire Control Equipment Co is a professional fire fighting equipment manufacturer in China. The company focuses on fire hose pipes, fire hose reels, fire cabinets and fire extinguisher accessories. Over fifteen years Hongrun has contributed to the safety and security industry in China. Today our main markets are Mid-East, South-East and South Africa etc. Several years ago, we received the EN694 certificate for fire hose.

## Skillstrain Distribution



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 29  
Person to ask for on the stand: Linda Botha or Jenny Harichuran  
Tel: 011 467 2730 or 011 516 0463  
Cell: 082 552 7742  
Email: linda@skillstrain.co.za or jenny@skillstrain.co.za

Skillstrain imports and distributes all specialised training products for students and all instructor resources in the form of Texts, Power Points and DVD's etc. For fire and disaster management, rescue, emergency medical services, department of health etc.

## South African Bureau of Standards (SABS)



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 73  
Person to ask for on the stand: Lekgolo Lebepe  
Tel: 0861 277 2271  
Email: Info@sabs.co.za

The South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) is the leading standardisation body on the African continent, and one of the top ten certification bodies in the world. The SABS offers world-class conformity assessment services and customised product offerings, including a wide range of accredited certification and testing services, as well as training.

For more information please visit:  
[www.sabs.co.za](http://www.sabs.co.za)

## Taizhou Sanjiang Global Trade Co

Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 17  
Person to ask for on the stand: Liu Jun  
Tel: 0086 0523 86877168  
Cell: 0086 1396 1005002  
Email: liujun3872@sina.com

Our company maintains high quality standards and have implemented the ISO9000-2001 quality management system and strictly enforce the GB6246-2001, EN14540, BS6391 quality standards. Every product has received China Classification Society Quality system (CCS) certification, the Russian ROHS certification and British UKAS certification. Further to this we are a member of China Fire Protection Association and the United States Fire Protection Association (NFPA). We offer first class technical support, complete after sales service of established 'Tuoyu' brands.

## Tecmed Africa



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 3 and 18  
Person to ask for on the stand: Yolande Viljoen or Leisie Schaffner  
Tel: 011 653 2000  
Cell: 082 871 4525 or 072 610 2020

Email: info@tecmed.co.za

Tecmed Africa is a leading provider of ▶





medical emergency equipment in the EMS field, some of our brands include: Stephan - Eve ventilator that is suitable for emergency to intensive care, with all intensive care ventilation modes available during transport.

Spencer - Offers a complete range of European manufactured EMS products including - Cross stretcher, B-Bak spine board, Contour head immobiliser and Jacob anti-shock pants.

### Tempest Fire



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 67  
Person to ask for on the stand: Lance or Greg  
Tel: 011 917 3208  
Cell: 083 452 7476 or 082 370 5441  
Email: tempest@tempestfire.co.za

Stablift – Lifting and stabilising equipment will be on display

### The Sysman Group



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 49 – 50 and Training Room  
Person to ask for on the stand: Theo de Hart or Dave Sowden  
Tel: 011 300 3300  
Cell: 083 602 3083  
Email: info@sysman.co.za

The Sysman Group is a specialist supplier to the emergency services and disaster management markets. Sysman has been servicing the emergency services market for over 28 years, and has a wealth of knowledge and innovations to meet any new challenge. Sysman is an empowered company specialising in the supply of turn-key '911' call centres, disaster management and security solutions. It prides itself on innovation and has in recent times introduced a new radio system (ROip) along with new station control alternatives, a web-based employee self-service and an exciting new disaster management system.

### Toil Safe PPE



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 65  
Person to ask for on the stand: Michelle Alho  
Tel: 011 918 5078  
Cell: 079 819 4152  
Email: sales@toilsafe.co.za

Toil Safe PPE is a supplier of the widest range of professional hazmat clothing.

### Uniontech SA (Emergency)



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: S2  
Person to ask for on the stand: Erno Brummer  
Tel: 012 541 2766 or Cell: 082 517 2723  
Email: erno@uniontechsa.co.za

Emergency lights, siren speakers, marker lights and decals and 5.11 tactical clothing range.

### Unique Hydra



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: S10  
Person to ask for on the stand: Andre Botha  
Tel: 021 534 3600  
Cell: 082 324 3157  
Email: sales@hydra.co.za

Department of Labour standard commercial diving solutions, Interspiro SCBA and diving systems.

### Unqondo Projects



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 23  
Person to ask for on the stand: Raj Hemraj  
Tel: 011 795 1699  
Cell: 082 853 3167  
Email: r.hemraj@nqondo.co.za

Fire fighting equipment

### Vanguard Fire and Safety



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: S4  
Person to ask for on the stand: John Buchan or Stuart Wood  
Tel: 031 564 3200 or 041 451 2461  
Email: info@isscc

Vanguard Fire and Safety is positioned as a specialist distributor of leading brand fire fighting equipment and related industrial safety products. Our exclusive product portfolio includes a wide range of fire fighting apparel and water delivery equipment including branches, monitors, hardware and foam equipment, positive pressure ventilators and fire fighting hoses.

Some highlights to be exhibited at this year's SAESI Expo include the new TFT G-Force branch featuring slide-valve technology and some exciting innovations in water delivery. Thermal imaging goes compact with the flexibility of the feature-rich Bullard Eclipse platform. Also from the Bullard stable is the durable NFPA approved wildfire helmet,

along with a wide range of accessories providing solutions for most wildfire related applications.

Complementing the Bullard wildfire helmet with its innovative dual-lens anti-fog system, is the Odyssey II wildfire goggle satisfying the increasing demand for a quality, affordable NFPA approved solution for wildfire fire fighting.

From the ventilation specialists, SuperVac, the challenges of confined space ventilation are blown away with the compact NanoPac and flexible ducting package.

### Woodlands Fire



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 70  
Person to ask for on the stand: Herman Human  
Tel: 011 794 9033  
Cell: 082 863 5464  
Email: sales@woodlandsfire.co.za

Fire hydrants and fire related equipment

### Working on Fire



Hall: 7  
Stand/site no: 32  
Person to ask for on the stand: Luthfia Cader  
Tel: 021 761 1992  
Cell: 082 900 8585

Working on Fire (WoF) was launched in September 2003 as part of the South African governments' initiative to create jobs and to alleviate poverty. WoF employs thousands of young men and women, who have been fully trained as veld and forest fire fighters and are stationed in more than 220 teams throughout South Africa.

WoF addresses the prevention and control of wildland fires, to enhance the sustainability and protection of life, property and the environment through the implementation of integrated fire management (IFM) practices.

The programme combines sound, land management principles and, best practice wildland fire fighting expertise, with the need to create jobs and develop skills.

In terms of poverty relief, WoF beneficiaries are being employed all year round and not only in the respective 'fire seasons' in the country. They are afforded employment all year round by participation in advocacy activities, fire prevention initiatives, such as fuel load reduction, prescribed burning, the creation of fire breaks as well as mandatory fire safety camps before every fire season.

# Fire and life strategies for prevention conference review

The Western Cape Local Government Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Services recently organised and hosted a seminar that focused on the increasing problem of fire related burns, which is among the top ten external causes of death in South Africa. Various presentations on topics related to the fire problem and associated injuries were presented and potential interventions debated. The seminar provided a platform to define the problem and determine objectives, rationale, methods and feasibility of innovative interventions for fire safety education and prevention.

Fire and Rescue International attended the conference and following is a brief overview of the discussion.

Colin Deiner, Western Cape Government welcomed all and gave a brief introduction to the issues at hand. Deiner also welcomed Rodney Eksteen in his position as assistant director: fire brigade services, Western Cape Government.



Colin Deiner

City of Cape Town's chief fire officer (CFO), Ian Schnetler, deliberated the fire challenges in informal settlements and described the recent catastrophic fires that spread through several informal settlements on New Year's Day. Schnetler shared two movie clips showing the difference in the speed of spread of fire in a formal house versus that of an informal settlement shack.

Schnetler further more outlined the City of Cape Town's Fire and Rescue Service explaining that its area expands across 2 455km<sup>2</sup>, divided in three districts with a district headquarter in each; nine divisions each with its own divisional headquarters and community stations in each



CFO Ian Schnetler

division; 30 fire stations with 941 operational fire fighting staff. He explained the variable risks contained within - ranging from extreme to low risk which includes a nuclear power station, international airport and harbour, military installations, petro-chemical industries, high-risk commercial and industrial areas, high to low end market residential properties, wildland interface and of course, informal settlements (250 plus). They service close to four million inhabitants - more than double the population of the entire rest of the Western Cape Province. Schnetler also shared some sobering statistics of their informal settlement fires including the monthly totals; death toll per age group; time of day; day of the week and the various causes. Causes range from predominantly negligence and accident related from the use of various fuel types for open-flame cooking, lighting and heating to deliberate ie settling domestic violence issues and settling crime related issues. Substance abuse also played a role through alcohol induced activities and non-activities and back-yard 'tik' use/preparation. Illegal electrical connections of electrical supplies were also listed as a cause.

They place a heavy burden on frequently overstretched government services and are mostly preventable. Fire related injuries have a high morbidity and mortality. There has been an increase in the fire death rate observed over the last fifteen years.

Professor Ashley van Niekerk of the South African Medical Research Council discussed the science of burn prevention, internationally and in South Africa. He said that there was overwhelming evidence that burns are environmentally conditioned and preventable and that prevention focus should be a blend of environmental modifications, parental education and product redesign ►



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*Prof Ashley van Niekerk*

► and safety. Prof Van Niekerk also said that preventative programmes should be multi-pronged and include active and passive measures, incorporate combinations of product modification, enforcement and educational strategy types and target specific risk factors or patterns. He also discussed the circumstances of burn mortality and shared the objectives of the strategic framework for the prevention of injury in South Africa. "We have to stop it before it starts," said Prof Van Niekerk.

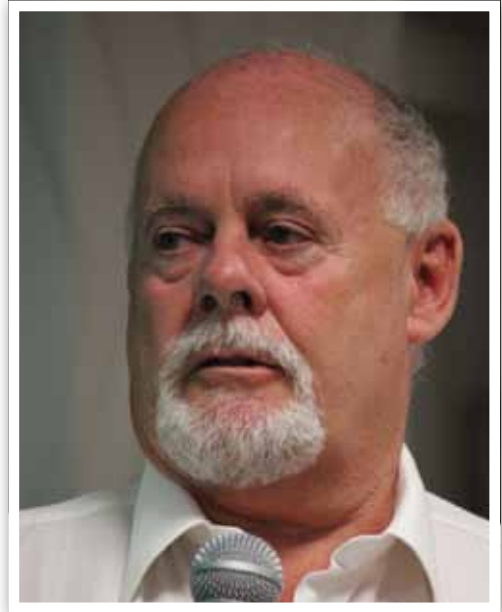
Dehran Swart, previously of the Paraffin Safety Association of South Africa (PSASA), presented various strategies to address household energy-related injury, which formed



*Dehran Swart*

part of research done by PSASA. Swart also explained that PSASA would cease to exist soon as its funding has been withdrawn. He said that the reality is that informal settlements are here to stay and detailed the underlying causes for this. Swart further more shared statistical

research done by the GIS-based National Household Energy Surveillance System, which is able to visualise the association's activities, resources, media and fire surveillance across the country. The statistics also detailed energy use in South Africa and Swart mentioned that 3,4 million houses still have no electricity. Energy related injuries were detailed in age and demographics and the types of burns outlined. Energy sources involved in the various burn injuries were discussed and the types of burns per age group highlighted.



*Stephen Williams*

The Canadian Burn foundation's Stephen Williams shared fire prevention initiatives in Canada, which included school and custom programmes and measuring the results. Williams further more discussed the adult education programmes, which included workplace safety, old age homes and safety at home. He detailed the cost of a burn injury and explained how the use burn survivors as part of their campaign. ►



*CFO Preven Govender*

► Breede River Valley's CFO, Preven Govender, presented their Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) programme. Govender detailed the rationale for having a community-based preparedness plan and discussed the history behind the CERT programme and how members of the Los Angeles Fire Department travelled to Japan to study their community preparedness plans. He described the basic concept involved: multi-functional volunteer response teams with the ability to perform basic fire suppression, light search and rescue and first aid. Govender said that CERT is a seven-week, 17,5-hour training programme and detailed the curriculum and how CERT operates. He also described The Breede River Valley Fire Department's strategy and confirmed that it was already operational in Touws River.

Chandra Fick of FireWise explained how fire wise communities were resilient to the threat of fire. She said that the FireWise Programme began in 2004 as an advocacy campaign that was initiated by Government and implemented by the Forest Fire Association (FFA) under the Working on Fire banner. Fick detailed how the programme aims at changing public and community behaviour with regard to wildfires; reduce unwanted ignitions and thus reduce the frequency of damaging wildfires; promote integrated fire management and implement internationally accepted principles of community-based fire management. She also described the wildfire cycle and discussed the anticipated conditions resulting from climate change. Fick outlined the programme and detailed its objectives and methods.



*Chandra Fick*

Western Cape Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Services' Rodney Eksteen presented the fire and life safety educator programme and explained its community risk reduction (CRR) and integrated prevention interventions. He said that public education is the foundation of reducing community risk and that effective and sustained success is best realised through the use of combined prevention interventions. Eksteen detailed the USFA's five-step plan and explained the Burn Foundation's special focus on fire burn prevention at preschool level. "Three-year olds showed the easiest ability to change in the age group



*Rodney Eksteen*

three to five," Eksteen said. He also outlined the fire and burn prevention curriculum for preschools and discussed the injury chain of events. Eksteen elaborated on the message development and described the key message: five primary prevention messages and four secondary prevention messages. He also detailed the 'Learn not to burn' teachers' guide and explained its key principles. Downloads are available at: [www.burnfoundation.org.za](http://www.burnfoundation.org.za).



*Etienne du Toit*

Etienne du Toit summarised the conference and said that "lots of passion leads to lots of action". Du Toit also said that the message of the presentations and discussion was clear: that we need an integrated approach that should include all the role players. He encapsulated the key messages and said that the conference started by detailing the challenges, but as the day progressed, the solutions followed. He confirmed that the Eden programme will be rolled out provincially, but warned that what needed was not a silver bullet approach, but rather a long-term solution. ▲



# eThekwini fire service: one hundred years and counting

*eThekwini Fire Services works on a predetermined attendance system for incident and vehicle dispatch*

**E**Thekwini Municipality Fire Services has been serving the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN), South Africa for more than a century after it first served in a dual function with the police department prior to 1898.

The KZN municipality's fire department has since established 19 regional fire stations serving the eThekwini Municipality, with an additional three stations set to be brought into operation within the next three years, reports eThekwini Municipality fire chief, Mark te Water.

Te Water says that the newly built fire stations will provide greater coverage and fire services to remote areas in the municipality's jurisdiction. These areas include Umkomaas, in the southern region of the KZN province, as well as Verulam, which is located north of the city of Durban. A third station will be built at the western boundary of the city. "This will provide a service for commuters in western area and provide fire and rescue services on the N3 (national route), which is the busiest road in the country," explains Te Water.

The eThekwini Municipality Fire Services' headquarters is the Central Durban Fire Station, which has been at its current location since 1952. The fire department provides fire and rescue services to an extensive and highly industrious area of the KZN province, states Te Water. "There is a lot of planning and research that is undertaken to ensure that an area is best suited for the efficient use of a fire station."

### Operations and service delivery

eThekwini fire department is responsible for a 'huge area' in the province, states Te Water. He says, "This includes two refineries, the largest port in Africa 'through which many chemicals used in the South African industrial community pass', a very well developed road infrastructure with a lot of trucks transporting between the port and refineries, international airport, central business district."

Te Water adds, "We also have a fair share of informal settlements, which pose unique challenges for fire fighting and rescue operations. Also, we have terrain like Inanda Dam

with its steep angles of descend and ascend. This results in tough access for vehicles in some areas."

The fire department's operational area is about 2 300 square kilometres. The N3, being a major node of transport on a national scale, requires continual maintenance, forms part of the eThekwini Fire Department's service mandate, explains Te Water.

The Central Durban Fire Station, where Te Water is based, experiences a high volume of calls. "We have, approximately, 8 000 fire calls a year and around 7 000 special service calls." The special service calls include such miscellaneous incidents as vehicle accidents and emergency interventions during floods in the region. "Any non-fire related emergency response, we consider a special service," says Te Water.

### Challenges

There is not enough emphasis placed on fire safety in the country, states Te Water. "There is a lot of attention on reactive responses, but there should ▶



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Mark te Water - eThekweni Municipality is planning to build three new fire stations in three years

► be a greater emphasis on fire risk management systems."

A great loss of life in residential properties and in informal settlements, owing to fire related incidences, has been a factor of concern and a major challenge for the region. "This is in the last ten years. We find that there are about 50 people dying of fires every year," reports Te Water.

eThekweni Fire Services currently operates on a predetermined attendance (PDA). Te Water explains, "In the event of grass fires we will send one grass fire unit. It is an incident attendance system based on the fire risk. If a building is on fire in town or the CBD, it is likely to be a complicated incident. We gear our response based on risk and what history suggests is an appropriate weight of response."

### Female fire fighters

eThekweni currently has a female operational staff complement of about 11% across its regional operations, mentions Te Water. He says that it is an imperative of

the fire department to integrate females into the fire industry, which has traditionally been considered a vocation for males.

The eThekweni Municipality actively recruits females for placement at its fire stations in the region. "If they choose to make a career in fire fighting - we have no problem with recruiting females. As long as they have the physical make-up and ability, as well as the mental acuity to perform the job," says Te Water.

The fire department has come up with a system whereby each female undergoes a physical and mental conditioning process prior to the appointment at the respective fire stations in KZN, explains Te Water. "This is done ahead of the selection process so that they can compete on an equal footing with the male counterparts," he says.

### Evolving industry


Among the challenges faced by the fire department is asset procurement and transforming the department to

align with best practice standards. eThekweni Fire Services' support services manager, Lance Ravidutt, says that the department's asset procurement processes presents its own challenges. "The principals of supporting our local economy and developing local capacity features highly on our agenda," states Ravidutt.

eThekweni Fire Services is also constantly evolving and transforming, which is the case with most organisations in the country today, says Ravidutt. He adds, "Funding has to be thoroughly researched and well-motivated. Expansion of the fire service to previously disadvantaged areas is also a key priority of my department and this has to be balanced off with ensuring that existing infrastructure is not neglected."

The municipality's is currently developing a fire training centre, which is a 'very important milestone in our organisations history and one that we are very proud of', concludes Ravidutt.▲





Security gates hampering access

# Fires in residential complexes – storming the citadel

By Colin Deiner, Chief Director, Disaster management and Fire Brigade Services, Western Cape Government

It is a fact of life that South Africa currently has an unacceptably high crime rate. People's concern about their and their family's safety has led to them taking a variety of measures to ensure that they too do not become victims to the scourge of crime that currently prevails in many parts of the country.

One such a measure is to live in a residential complex with any number of security measures. The problem is that the very security offered by such complexes could itself constitute a serious risk in terms of fire safety and access.

Access controls, burglar proofing, narrow roads, to name a few, are some of numerous challenges faced by emergency services responding to fires in complexes. How do we deal with them? Hopefully what follows here will help you.

## Access

Narrow lanes between housing units can cause the first serious

access problem. If it is physically impossible to move a standard medium pumper into any position of tactical advantage, what are the chances of moving a twelve-metre ladder truck into position? Many upmarket complexes have taken to double-storey dwellings with sleeping accommodation upstairs and enough security downstairs to make Fort Knox look like a walk-in shopping mall. Another major problem (which exists not just in complexes but also in conventional housing structures) is roof construction (more of this later). The most secure estates only have one point of access and exit, this is usually a security gate manned by guards on a twenty-four hour basis. There are various means of access; a tag mounted on a resident's vehicle that can be read by a camera at the gate, allowing the vehicle to enter the premises, has become a very popular method. Another means of access is a keypad system whereby a person wishing to enter the premises, punches in a certain code that either gives him access to the premises

or connects him to the people living in the relevant unit; they then let him enter by means of a remote switch.

Should the latter system prevail, it is important that the emergency services formulate an agreement with the complex management to ensure unrestricted access in the event of emergencies.

In all of the above cases, a single point of entry severely limits the approach of responding units to a fire, as well as the incident commander's subsequent placement of his/her vehicles. He/she must ensure that all responding units can negotiate the narrow lanes leading to their objective.

Some roads inside complexes are, in many cases, single, one-way roads and barely wide enough to let a light motor vehicle through. Other vehicles parked in such a way that the lanes are even narrower frequently compound this problem. ▶



Access controls, burglar proofing and narrow roads are some of numerous challenges faced when responding to fires in complexes



It is vital to critique the incident in all aspects as soon as possible

► When you consider that fire fighting operations at a structure within a complex would involve stretching at least two lines for fire attack, one line to support ventilation, the utilisation of positive pressure ventilation, water supply to the first-in apparatus, removal of security barriers (burglar proofing) and exposure protection (because of the closeness of the structures to each other), the overall impact of access problems can be significant.

### Forcible entry

Fortress-like conditions created by heavy-duty security barriers will delay initial operations and necessitate different tactics and additional resources. The most dangerous situation faced by fire fighters is the potential for entrapment presented by obstructed egress points inside a heavily secured home. A home that has security barriers over every conceivable opening severely curtails both occupant escape and fire fighter egress. Such security measures must be viewed as a tragedy waiting to happen; their quick removal is the best defence against occupant and fire fighter entrapment.

Although most iron bars can be relocated by using hand-held prying or striking tools, the use of power tools is far less fatiguing and allows faster

operation. Using a power saw on heavy-duty bars with multiple anchor points affords the advantage that, once enough anchor points have been removed, the bars can be pushed out of the way and the saw operator can move on to the next obstacle. When there are numerous barred openings, additional portable cutting tools, such as torches and air-chisels can be used to speed up the operation and allow for multiple openings at various locations.

In previous articles, I have stressed the importance of having a balanced fire attack that in the main requires a "truck company" to support the hose teams inside the building by ensuring adequate ventilation and forcible entry, thereby ensuring movement of the hose teams that is not obstructed by smoke or structural elements. It is probably more crucial here than anywhere else. Incident commanders (or sector officers) must ensure that the interior hose teams are monitored and followed by the forcible entry teams on the outside and that escape routes are always available. This might require the forcible entry team to remove security barriers progressively as the hose team moves along towards the fire. This action will no doubt shock the more conservative incident commanders, but it sure beats shining

up those vintage fire trucks for a fire fighters funeral. Oh and don't worry about the home owner, he will be too busy thanking you for saving his life.

It is important to try and leave windows intact when removing exterior mounted bars. This will increase visibility until the bars have been removed.

### Hose handling

Initial laying of hose lines should be done in order to protect victims and fire fighters operating in exposed areas. Consider the possibility of using larger diameter interior hand lines for fires in heavily protected homes. Fires in homes with straight-room or open-plan layouts may offer this advantage. The ease of cornering and advancing with smaller hand lines would probably not be required. The return of the smooth bore nozzle a couple of years back has probably done more to improve interior fire fighting than any other recent innovation. Consider placing a few on your first attack apparatus. Your knockdown potential will improve immeasurably.

Being part of the solution is always better than being part of the problem and limiting water damage should be one of our main priorities. Watching granny's portrait floating ►



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*Be aware of the possibility of building collapse*

► out of the front door not only adds to the trauma of the affected family but also gives your department a bad name. Try to avoid it.

### Communications

Communications must be set-up so that interior and exterior crews work together and not in opposition to each other. In the interior, when a search-and-rescue crew enters a room that has exterior window bars, they should inform the exterior crew so that the bars can be removed. By having the exterior crew move in unison with the interior crew, the interior fire fighters will know if conditions deteriorate or a victim is found and will be able to assist in the escape. It is important for all tasks to be accomplished in the right sequence.

Good tactical communications will also hopefully prevent the more nervous incident commanders among us from initiating an exterior attack while he/she still has teams working on the inside. There is nothing like "mode confusion" to get the guys on the inside talking to the guys on the outside about their mothers.

### Rooms above ground level

Where the fire is in rooms above ground level, the removal of

obstructions will obviously be slower and more difficult. Use of portable ladders at such dwellings should be, although personnel intensive, a priority. Any ladders used for entry must be left in place to be used as possible means of escape. And make sure that the top of a ladder is placed high enough to be easily visible in case it is needed in an emergency. There is no specific height specified that a ladder should protrude over a side of a roof. If you can see it, it's the correct height.

When removing bars from locations above ground level, be sure that they will not injure anyone (or a ladder) when they are dropped to the ground and plan your ladder placement so that barrier removal can be accomplished with the minimum of movement.

As can be seen from the above, the rapid removal of anti-intrusion devices is a priority that has to be achieved rapidly and will occupy most of your exterior crew (truck company).

An ideal solution might well be to assign a rapid intervention company as part of the preplanning required for residential complexes. This

company should address issues such as the identification of all necessary equipment, methods of getting that equipment to the fire building and forcible entry procedures.

### Fire fighting

The moderate climate we enjoy in this country means that we don't have to live under roofs especially constructed to combat extreme weather, which is why many dwellings in South Africa have roof constructions comprised of light wooden trusses that are joined by metal gussets and covered with clay tiles.

If, however, there is a fire and that fire spreads to the roof, such a roof is very likely to come down. The load carried by a light wooden truss structure will be sufficient under normal, non-fire conditions, but the fact that the gusset plates holding the trusses together have very little heat tolerance and separate rather easily, plus the weight of the tiles, means that a roof collapse can be imminent within five minutes of intense exposure to fire.

Should a fire start in one room of a dwelling and burn intensely for a while – even if it is confined to just that room – it will eventually penetrate the ►



*Fire fighters performing a defensive attack after receiving information that the residence was associated with the manufacturing of Methamphetamines*

- ceiling and enter the roof void. When this happens, things turn really nasty.

Inside the roof void, the fire will find just what it is looking for: a large opening filled with air, plenty of dust, and a lot of light wooden trusses. The result is a boom! The roof comes down. In many cases, a geyser is mounted in the roof and will also fall to the ground. We have learned from experience that in the above scenario we usually have a 70% - 100% roof collapse.

Any incident commander committing hose-teams to the interior of such a structure should take careful note of both prevailing fire conditions and the progress of the fire. Committing crews to the roof at this point would simply be courting tragedy.

In the course of fighting numerous dwelling fires, we have found that a marginal interior attack by applying Class A foam to the affected roof void is, the most effective strategy. Certain tactics must, however, be followed during this attack:

- A team doing forcible entry and ventilation tasks must support hose teams.

- Applying Class A foam to the unaffected roof void limits the chances of the fire spreading and thus allows the removal of personnel who might otherwise have to take up dangerous positions to protect it.
- Good tactical communication is a priority. Again, the guys on the outside must know what the guys on the inside are doing; and the guys on the inside must know when to go on the defensive.

Most fire officers would agree that an offensive attack is the best way to deal with such situations. However, it is vital for the incident commander to project the time it will take for crews to implement the appropriate strategies and allow for changes to his initial plan should they not be achieved.

Available manpower, access and roof construction problems will all work against the incident commander at this stage and he/she will need to manage what time is available to the optimum. A good practice is for the command centre to transmit the incident time every ten minutes; it's easy to lose track of time during

a fire fighting operation. Objectives can then be measured and decisions made as to what strategy shifts are necessary.

### **Initial attack decision**

The first arriving officer's initial attack decision can make a critical difference to the outcome of any fire. This officer has to quickly evaluate the situation, choose the correct hose lines, determine the best access to the fire and expose hidden spaces as the initial attack-line is advanced. At the same time, the other crews should support this attack and check for fire extension.

It is uncommon for the first-in engine crew to have to use a combination of offensive and defensive tactics to contain, control and eventually extinguish a fire. It might also be necessary for hose teams to knock down the main body of fire from the outside and then, after assessing structural stability, follow it up with a controlled interior attack.

Should conditions worsen during an interior attack and the flashover risk become too great, crews should ►



The first arriving officer's initial attack decision can make a critical difference to the outcome of any fire



Know where your ladders are

► back out of the building and then attempt to knock down the main body of fire before returning to attempt another offensive attack. In addition, they must keep in mind the possibility of collapse, burn time, etc.

It is important always to ensure that everyone on the fire ground knows what the present strategy is and which position they should be in. Remember that surprises are only nice on your birthday.

The decision to go defensive will happen when neither the structure nor the occupants can be saved and must be made early enough to back crews out and away from the structure. While this is being done, outside lines must be set up for heavy streams to go into operation as soon as the interior crews are out. When getting heavy streams into operation, take care that they are safely directed. You may need a safety officer or spotter for this.

Nothing on a fire ground ever falls up, so always bear in mind the possibility of building collapse. The golden rule is, attack from the unburned side. The roof on that side will probably maintain sufficient integrity if the attack is started in the early stages of the fire.

Always be aware of what the roof is doing and which way to run when it starts doing it.

### Incident critique

Upon completion of an incident, it is vital to critique the incident in all aspects as soon as possible. Critiquing the incident will help determine the lessons learned and reinforced and it is then up to us to put those lessons into a well-timed, integrated action plan.

When is the best time to critique? Many incident commanders would wait until they are back in the station and everyone has cleaned up and got comfortable with a cup of coffee in their hands and a white board in close proximity. This will work, however, it has been my experience that the best time to critique is immediate after a fire-stop message has been given and everyone is still on the fire ground. Ladders and hose lines should still be in place and the remains of any doors or windows that were forcibly entered will still be lying around (along with granny's portrait). It is here where questions can be asked and the most honest answers received. "Ralph why did you place that ladder in the position it is in now?" or "Jimmy, please show us how you went about ventilating that roof?" will have much more meaning when

the troops can actually see what you are referring to. Also, it takes away the opportunity for someone to think up excuses on the long ride back to the station.

### Tactical truths

As surely as fire engines were meant to be red, there are certain elements to fighting fires; not only in residential complexes, but any other structure. Here are some of our ideas:

- If the tactic doesn't support the strategy, people will get hurt.
- Flashovers are a direct result of not having enough people.
- An unsupported attack is an unplanned attack and will lead to disaster.
- An engine without a supply line is just a 3 000-litre tanker.
- Your standard operating procedure (SOP) is your game plan. Play according to it.

Note: I wish to dedicate this article to an old friend who played a major role in helping develop our response to complex fires during my time as an operations officer in the Boksburg Fire Department in the late nineties. Many people will remember the late Jim Gargan from North Carolina, USA, who, on his frequent visits to South Africa during that time, inspired many of us to learn more about what we do and to love being fire fighters.▲



# The Cape Peninsula FPA: helping protect our national heritage

By *Graham Barlow*

*TMNP fire on Signal Hill in 2012*

It can be said without fear of contradiction that Fire Protection Associations (FPAs) and their newly constituted provincial umbrella organisations are highly regarded in the wildfire fighting world, both internationally and here in South Africa. They are increasingly influential as a voice in government circles, are trusted by landowners across the country and are highly respected by peripheral, but important organisations, such as insurance companies and fire fighting equipment manufacturers. They are a key component of integrated fire management and bring together the normally disparate private, public and government sectors with a single purpose.

Not all FPAs are the same, or face the same fire management challenges, for obvious reasons. In the Western Cape and the Cape Peninsula in particular, the approach to integrated fire management takes on a particularly complex aspect and managing this complexity falls into the jurisdiction of the Cape Peninsula Fire Protection Association (CPFPA). The Cape Peninsula, for those not familiar with the topography, lies on the south-western perimeter of the Western Cape Province and is a mountainous territory of approximately sixty kilometres in length by sixteen kilometres wide. It has a coastline some 100 kilometres in length and the central nature reserve area - Table Mountain National Park - is totally surrounded by human habitation; the Cape Metropole has a population of approximately 3,5 million.

Prior to 1998, no less than fourteen separate bodies governed the area comprising the current Table Mountain National Park area. This state of affairs resulted in chaotic

fire management, planning and implementation and primarily to effect better-informed decisions on fire control the park was declared a single conservation area in 1998 under the control of South African National Parks (SANParks).

An integrated fire management plan was commissioned and as part of this plan, the CPFPA was formed in 2004 – the first FPA in the Western Cape to be registered - in order to coordinate the management and implementation of the plan by incorporating the input of all stakeholders, public, private and corporate.

## **Fynbos biome**

A certain amount of background will illustrate the nature of the challenges faced by the CPFPA and the fire fighting teams in the Western Cape. The indigenous vegetation lies at the heart of the problem and is a double-edged sword: the Cape fynbos biome is rightly regarded as a wonder of the world, but its protection and conservation provides unique challenges. By way of example: the Cape Peninsula has an area smaller than most international capitals, but is host to 2 285 plant species, of which 161 are endemic. At the Cape Point side of the Peninsula is 77 square kilometres that cover the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve. This small reserve is host to over 1 000 different plant species. Compare this to California, another Mediterranean Climate region that has an average of 14 species per 1 000 square kilometres. This unique diversity has been responsible for the Cape Floral Kingdom being designated one of the earth's six plant kingdoms. The Boreal Forest Kingdom, another of the six kingdoms, has an area of 20 million square miles – putting the fynbos biome into perspective. ▶



TMNP prescribed burn at Silvermine in 2012

- ▶ However, what is disturbing in the extreme is the pressure that is being placed on the fynbos region: no less than one third of the fynbos species are regarded as endangered. Table Mountain National Park has justifiably been declared a World Heritage Site.

What is fynbos or 'fijnbosch' as it was known by the early Dutch settlers? It is a collective term given to four species of plant; proteoids, ericoids, restioids and geophytes and it was named for its fine stems and small leaf structure. Fynbos has no 'trees', being essentially an evergreen shrub flora it is not suitable for grazing purposes. It grows in soils with low nutrients and has evolved to flourish in conditions of dry, hot summers and cool wet winters. Nevertheless, it is the regenerative nature of fynbos that concerns the CPFPA, fire fighters and conservationists the most: it is both fire prone and fire dependent. With no fire there would be no fynbos – it is dependent on fire for seeds to germinate or shrubs to coppice after burning.

As a vegetation it is therefore ideally suited for runaway fires. It is highly flammable, its very fineness as a fuel source lending itself to quick ignition and high burning temperatures and it thrives in a climate with winter rainfall, where it is hot, dry and windy for extended periods during the summer months. There are numerous sources of ignition, ranging from natural origins like lightning strikes and sparks from falling boulders in the montane areas through to the multiple human induced causes, mostly accidental or unintentional, but no less devastating for that. Based on a study done from 1970 to 2007, only 22% of ignitions were of natural causes over that 37-year period.

The fynbos fire regime is complex and it was only in the 1970's that research focussed on the necessity of fire in the regeneration of fynbos. It has been subsequently, scientifically ascertained that fynbos should ideally burn every 12 to 15 years. This oversimplifies the process, but suffices to say that seed is set by the mature plants for successive years. After a wildfire has burned through the area, the seeds that were protected from burning by the serotinous (woody) covering of the seed cones will be further scattered by the winds and start sprouting. If fynbos is left too long between burnings – over 45 years is regarded as the longest acceptable interval – there

is a natural senescence in the plants, flowering declines and what few seeds there are, will fall onto inhospitable ground and are unlikely to sprout. Some species will coppice, but after a very hot fire with a heavy fuel load, these plants are likely to have been too extensively burnt. What will survive are the alien plant species and another fynbos area will have been irretrievably lost.

### Urban/wildland interface

The Cape Peninsula is not what it used to be prior to the large scale urbanisation and habitation. Areas of fynbos have been pushed into ever-smaller areas of conservation and are surrounded by a combination of flammable exotic pine forests, vineyards and, most importantly, an urban wildland interface of hundreds of kilometres around the mountain edges. Dwellings range from multi-million Rand mansions to densely populated informal settlements and each present their own specific challenges to fire fighters. Increases in population are recognised internationally as correlating to an increase in fire frequency in ecosystems similar to the fynbos system: the Californian chaparral ecosystem as an example has suffered extensively over the past decade from accidentally ignited runaway fires. During the research period referred to above on the Cape Peninsula from 1979 to 2007, the fire return period reduced from 31,6 years to 13,5 years, a staggering drop over such a short interval. In addition, this is an average over the full area of the park, with certain sections burning as frequently as two to three year intervals.

This, in essence, is the nature of the multifaceted difficulties facing the CPFPA and the fire fighting community of the Cape Peninsula. The fynbos needs to burn, but the people need to be protected. Runaway fires in previous years have wreaked havoc on communities bordering nature reserves and lessons have been learnt. The fire fighting organisations in the Western Cape are all professional, highly effective and well trained, but what is needed in times of raging fires, is close cooperation and an overall understanding of what needs to be achieved and how to reach that point.

The CPFPA represents and is controlled by, a cross section of concerned organisations and individuals. Headed up by the manager of Table Mountain National





Peninsula fire



Will the fynbos return?

► Parks Fire Services, the steering committee comprises representatives of these groups, ranging from the Cape Town Fire and Rescue services whose mandate is to protect property; the Provincial Disaster Management Centre whose team will cover all eventualities including fire; to the government Working on Fire programme; volunteer fire fighting teams and private landowners who stand to lose the most in a catastrophic runaway fire.

The greatest challenge, in both areas of operation, remains the urban boundary. This extensive interface is not only a challenge in terms of the effects of wildfire: it is also the greatest cause of accidental fires through human carelessness and, sadly, arson. Nowhere is the concept of integrated fire management more important than in an area that in essence a nature reserve with a circumference of fire ignition sources. The Table Mountain National Park is not only surrounded by housing, it is criss-crossed by numerous highways and byways and is dotted with settlements, both legal and illegal. As a recreational park, it attracts hikers, cyclists and picnickers and Table Mountain itself is celebrated as having the busiest summit in the world.

One method of preventing runaway fynbos fires is to utilise prescribed burning techniques under controlled conditions, but this practice is made extremely difficult by all the reasons cited above. Obviously, controlled burns need to be planned in conjunction with botanists who will assess the state and age of the vegetation, parks officials, landowners and fire teams and will only take place under ideal conditions. There is considerable antipathy from press and public alike to these burnings, for reasons ranging from previous 'escaped' prescribed burns to general ignorance of fire management. The CPFPA is the ideal coordinating and educating forum, and during the less dangerous periods around the summer fire season, they are intensely involved with prescribed burns, as well as stack burning of firebreak cuttings and alien clearing. They will be the first to admit that circumstances prevent the perfect solution: many areas on the mountains are way beyond their optimal burning years, but the way forward is seen as education of the people around the urban interface, and long term planning to cover all the danger areas.

### Suppression

As mentioned earlier, given the inherent dangers of spreading wildfires, the fire fighting community in the Western Cape has substantial resources to draw on. Fires on the Peninsula fall under the jurisdiction of Table Mountain National Parks, whose fire protection officer is also the executive chairman of the CPFPA. On 'red days' in the Peninsula, it is not unusual for multiple fires to break out and even the best equipped fire fighting organisations can be stretched under these circumstances. The two biggest fires on record (3 363 and 3 204 hectares) both ►

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[www.saif.org.za](http://www.saif.org.za)

**The Southern African Institute of Forestry (SAIF)**

# Confrontation

By Wayne Bailey, board member, International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), USA



Wayne Bailey

When was the last time you were confronted about a bad situation or you has to confront someone else?

The easy thing to do is just avoid the confrontation, right? Wrong.

Why do we want to avoid confrontation?

There is a real fear that when your confront someone, you will not be liked and kicked out of the social circle. By avoiding confrontation, in most cases it will make things worse.

If done properly, addressing the issue will help you grow as a person and hopefully the other person will grow too. When you confront someone, you always do it with class and respect. You would never confront someone to make him or her look bad or make yourself look better. Below are some excerpts from the book "Developing the leaders around you":

1. Confront ASAP. The old saying is crow is easier to eat when it's still warm.
2. Address the wrong action, not the person. Never ever, make it personal.
3. Confront only what the person can change. They can only manage what they have control over.
4. Give the person the benefit of the doubt. If they said they messed up, believe them.
5. Be specific. This is so the act can be identified clearly.
6. Avoid sarcasm. Adding this to the mix, it becomes personal.
7. Avoid words like "always" and "never." These words are absolute. Just think if they were coming back the other way.
8. If appropriate, tell the person how you feel about what was done wrong.
9. Give the person a game plan to fix the problem. If you're their supervisor, this could be

documented officially or non-officially.

10. Affirm him or her as a person and a friend. Shake his or hand or give them a pat on the back and tell them you still appreciate them and their work.

In the end, you want to have the best interest in place for the person you're confronting. There's a good chance this person may grow from the conversation and learn from the experience.▲

► started on the same day: 16 January 2000 - 14 houses were destroyed.

Fires of this nature and in the mountainous terrain of the Peninsula cannot be suppressed, or even controlled, without aerial support. Always an indispensable factor in mountainous regions, the combination of helicopters and spotter planes assisting the incident commander at the fires, cannot be too highly praised. In these territories, ground teams will always struggle to reach the fire and there is an ever present danger of fire fighters being caught in a gorge or against a cliff face with a wind shift. In addition, the range that extends from Table Mountain at the base of the Peninsula to the apex at Cape point is particularly steep. The only feasible method of suppression is from above and, to this end, SANParks has two Working on Fire Bell UH1 'Hueys' on standby at Newlands Forest Station, a point that provides quick access to the entire peninsula.

There are no runway facilities on the Peninsula itself, but spotter planes are based at Stellenbosch about 50 kilometres away and can be despatched and over the conflagration in minutes. When there are multiple fires burning, with the potential of serious loss of property, the 'eye in the sky' is invaluable to the central incident commander. Should the fire require it, there is the availability of six additional choppers from three airfields around Cape Town, all located within 60 kilometres.

## Western Cape Provincial support

The Provincial Disaster Management Centre (PDMC) in Cape Town has recognised the necessity of aerial intervention on wildfires to such an extent that a considerable amount of funding is made available for aerial fire suppression each fire season by the provincial government. When deemed necessary, the PDMC will fund the first hours flying costs for all aircraft deployed on a potential runaway fire. Many potentially disastrous mountain blazes have been quickly extinguished by the aerial teams working in tandem with the CPFPA and SANParks without the incident commander having to concern himself with funding issues before calling on helicopter support. When an early 'first strike' is called for, this can mean the difference between containing a fire quickly and a ten-day runaway conflagration.

It is no exaggeration to say that without the involvement of the CPFPA, its experts and landowners and the aerial and land-based resources made available for fire fighting in the Cape Peninsula, the unique biome that is the Cape Floral Kingdom would have already been damaged beyond the point of no return.

The CPFPA has struck a balance between the safety of the community and the preservation of natural resources that should please humanitarians, conservationists and botanists alike.▲

# Retired chief fire officers - a valuable untapped resource

By Lenny Naidoo, chief fire officer, Rural Metro Emergency Management Services, South Africa

We have a wealth of experience, knowledge and skills not being tapped into when we consider that there are so many chief fire officers in retirement. Many of the retired chiefs can contribute to our industry, but thus far, no formal attempt has been made to reach out to this knowledgeable group.

The United States and other countries have seized this opportunity and have formed Retired Chief Fire Officers Associations. I was fortunate enough to attend a gathering of retired chiefs that was hosted at Fire Raiders in Boksburg several years ago. During our conversations, it became evident that the majority of the "Old Guard" still have the fire service close to their hearts and were keeping track of happenings. Many stated that although on pension, they would gladly get involved in projects or offer their support to fire services. This is critical nowadays when you consider fire service training is narrowly focussed on "entry level" training with not too much emphasis on upper management development. This leaves a huge void in development and in many instances, it is 'learn as you go' that is the order of the day.

Retired chiefs would be invaluable to call upon in the issues centred around development. Many newly appointed fire chiefs would benefit by adopting the shadow approach by working closely with a retired chief fire officer. I recall chatting to a real legend, Nic Swanepoel, at the function in Boksburg and he strongly said that he will always support our service and what he said really touched me. Nic stated that he felt sorry for the fire chiefs of our country as they could not speak out against our employers and had to tow the line. Nick said he could do the talking on our behalf as he was not in the unfortunate position facing our current chiefs. He could stand up for our service without fear of any repercussions. At that time we



*Tony Lightbody Chairman of the Board, Rural Metro EMS, age 65, possibly the oldest retired fire chief still actively involved in the fire service*

decided to stall on taking advantage of the kind offer made by Nic due to the fact that 2010 soccer world cup was being planned and the world cup may be affected. Sadly, Nic passed away since. I remember saying to Nic that at times, we are our own worst enemy because whatever is thrown at us, we tend to make a plan thus giving the impressions that all is well.

I must also mention two other real stalwarts in our service - John Sutton and Dick Croucamp. The former was a real traditionalist of the highest order and was never really a pensioner. He stayed in touch with the fire service and would not miss the SAESI branch meetings, where he would contribute on a regular basis. He was invaluable when bringing his experience to the discussions. There were many occasions where John Sutton would address the meeting and give direction clearly stating which plans would work and which would not - the been-there-done-that phenomenon obviates time wastage.

'Oom' Dick Croucamp also supported the fire services long after

his retirement. 'Oom' Dick would travel the country to take minutes of SAESI meetings and he did a sterling job.

Currently Tony Lightbody, chairman of the board at Rural Metro is still actively involved in fire services. At the age of 65, he most certainly is the oldest retired fire chief that is still actively involved in fire and rescue services. Tony amazingly stays in touch with developments in our fire service.

The United States Fire Services constantly use retired chiefs to sit on phases of promotional orals boards. Their long experience in personnel gives a good insight into potential supervisors and leaders. Many of these same retired chiefs act as mentors to aspiring department personnel, helping the next generation to become their best.

Retired fire chiefs would also be useful in the role of monitoring and evaluation. South Africa most definitely should set up a retired fire chiefs association to support our fire services. ▲



# WORKING ON FIRE

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To enhance the sustainability and protection of life, livelihoods, ecosystem services and natural processes through integrated fire management in order to contribute to economic empowerment, skills development, social equity and accelerated service delivery.



The **WORKING ON FIRE (WOF)** Programme is one of the most successful components of the South African governments Expanded Public Works Programmes designed to alleviate poverty through skills training and the creation of job opportunities. The WOF Programme draws beneficiaries from impoverished communities and transform formerly unemployed and in some cases unemployable youth into fit, disciplined and trained veld and forest firefighters, which are deployed at over 100 bases in fire prone areas across South Africa. South Africa has created a world record proportion of women in the ranks of these firefighters, where some 30% are young women.

The impact of this programme has been widely recognized through the accolades which it has been awarded over the years. Not only has the WOF Programme made a huge contribution to South Africa's veld and forest fire fighting capabilities, but the modest remuneration which the WOF Programme beneficiaries receive is a critical relief measure from the depths of poverty experienced by so many in South Africa. Their income represents a real contribution to the lives of the beneficiaries, their families and communities where they live.

WOF beneficiaries not only receive specialized training in various fields related to their veld and forest fire fighting work but are afforded to progress in the ranks of the WOF structure to become Type II then Type I crew leaders as well as branching out into the management and administration functions in the programme. Some 84 former fire fighters have already progressed into such positions such as instructors, regional managers, media and community liaison officers, financial clerks, stores and procurement administrators, etc.

The WOF Scholarship Fund is intended to provide resources to aspirant current and former wildland fire fighters still engaged by WOF to pursue further formal training to improve their skills and knowledge. The fund will be managed by a committee consisting of former fire fighters and programme managers, chaired by the executive chairman of FFA Operations, the company implementing the WOF programme.

Contributions will be solicited from the general public, both domestically and abroad, corporate social investment resources and public and private institutions both in the form of general contributions and targeted funding initiatives. Individuals or institutions may also choose to sponsor a WOF beneficiary pursue their further studies or training. The intention would be to register the WOF Scholarship Fund as a public benefit entity to allow for tax deductible contributions from the corporate sector. All contributors to the WOF Scholarship Fund will receive annual statements on the utilization of funds and beneficiary progress.

You are urged to make a contribution to this fund which will greatly enhance the ability of the WOF Fund beneficiaries to improve their skills and knowledge and in so doing improve their employment opportunities and contribution they can make to their communities. Contributions can be made via the enclosed pledge form.

**For further information, please contact:**

The Executive Chairman,  
FFA Operations T/A WORKING ON FIRE,  
Email: [Abrahams@iafrica.com](mailto:Abrahams@iafrica.com)  
Tel: +27 (0) 82 557 5069.

Also see the WOF website at [www.workingonfire.org](http://www.workingonfire.org)

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# The technical side of technical rescue

**Technical rescue teams intervene in particularly difficult or dangerous situations. Intensively trained and taught, they operate in any environment where conventional rescue teams cannot operate safely.**

ATA International director, Trevor Justus, explains that technical rescue is a complex form of rescue training and one of great importance on disaster and incident sites.

To cite an example of how technical rescue differs from basic rescue, Justus says basic or informal rescue would consist of a simple and easily executed rescue carried out by bystanders /people with little or no basic rescue knowledge. "Technical rescue requires a more in-depth and insightful understanding of the situation that will result in saving the lives of people that are trapped in a more complex way or injured beyond the help of just basic rescue."

Technical rescue may be required in any situation where the patient cannot free themselves, or be immediately and easily extracted by a basic rescuer - this would include specialised rescue, such as confined space rescue, technical rope rescue, trench rescue and collapsed structure rescue. Even vehicle rescues have

the potential to become complex, resulting in the need to call in a technical rescue team.

Technical rescuers will be called in to remove patients trapped by injuries and mechanics. Through technical rescue training, rescuers are taught from the start, how to survey a scene, identify hazards and set the scene up so that each member of the rescue team has a delegated, important task that avoids confusion and over-compensation on one task thereby ignoring others.

Justus emphasises the importance of the team as a whole in carrying out a technical rescue. "The amount that one person can do, see and hear is limited, so each member of a technical rescue team, including the incident commander, relies on one another to remain vigilant and alert to all safety hazards on site. Each team member is a valuable set of eyes and ears that will assist with ensuring the safety of the site. Every member of a technical rescue team will undergo a

briefing before tasks are delegated to the members."

He says that aside from teamwork, discipline is another important aspect in technical rescue and without this valuable attribute, a rescue cannot be successful. "The delegation of tasks to team members is a highly systematic process and if a rescue team lacks the discipline to accept and execute the tasks they are assigned by the incident commander, a rescue attempt and disaster area could result in more casualties than it started with and the rescue team could become a part of the problem."

On the site of a vehicle extrication rescue, for example, the incident commander will survey the scene; assess the verbal incident report received from a team member and then delegate tasks, such as cutting, spreading, patient care and chocking. Each member of the rescue team will be assigned a specific role and while some might ▶

► think that one role is less important than another, he says that each task on an incident site is vital.

“Each task assigned to a rescue team member is important and requires diligence and knowledge of the scene. Chocking, for example, is the use of wood or various types of equipment to stabilise the area surrounding a patient on scenes that include collapsed trenches, collapsed buildings or vehicle accidents and should this not be done in a precise and technically understood manner, the physical dynamics could change and the material being stabilised could collapse and seriously injure, or even kill the patients and put the rescuers and paramedics at risk. This is yet another reason why the team needs to work as a cohesive unit and why each member should understand the critical nature of their roles,” he explains.

### Training

Technical rescue training is extensively practical; however, there is also a lot of theory and understanding that make the training come together as a whole.

There are three levels of foundation rescue, which include vehicle extrication, basic rope rescue and fire fighting (basic level). These are basic levels which individuals that do not have a medical background can undertake and these are the foundation to moving up to a more advanced level of technical rescue. In order to progress to the next step, the candidate must have these foundations in place in order to undertake more advanced levels of trench rescue, structural collapse rescue, confined space rescue and advanced high angle rescue.

Justus emphasises “The very first aspect that individuals are taught when undergoing technical rescue training is how to practice personal safety in order to not become a victim on the scene they are working. Rescuers are taught to take personal care of themselves and to assess immediate dangers without becoming a liability, because they are ineffective to the injured and trapped, if they themselves are not physically able to perform their duties.”

Technical rescue training, in particular the courses provided by ATA International, hopes to instil a sense of lateral thinking in individuals undergoing the training. “With training, there is a limit to how much a person can be taught the rest involves practical exercises, experience and a particular mind set.

Technical rescue is complex and sensitive to carry out so a rescuer cannot just go in and start removing a person from an entrapped state, or just pick up a piece of equipment and start cutting, there needs to be a deeper thought process, which is something we hope to instil in all candidates,” explains Justus.

Technical rescue practitioners are required to practice certain rescue skills every six months so that knowledge is always refreshed and up-to-date. “It is so important to stay in touch with the concepts involved with structural collapse, trench rescue and technical rope rescue – especially if these are not used on a regular basis – in order to remain safe and know what to do, should such an event arise,” she says.▲

## Support Children of Fire



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*“All I want is a safe home.”*

Thapelo Phore, 5



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# 2013

## May

### 3 – 7 May 2013

#### Fire-Rescue Med (FRM)

The FRM conference attracts the industry's leading experts for premier education session and hands-on training exercises

**Venue:** Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

**Contact:** Mary-Jane Vita email: mvita@iafc.org

For more information visit: [www.iafc.org](http://www.iafc.org)

### 4 May 2013

#### International Fire Fighters Day

For more information visit: [www.firefightersday.org](http://www.firefightersday.org)

### 6 – 10 May 2013

#### 2013 Pacific Northwest Fire Investigators Conference

This conference offers an understanding of fire investigation from basic fire investigation to elevated fire origins and allows one to complete certification testing during the course of the conference

**Venue:** Best Western Icicle Inn, Leavenworth, Washington, USA

**Contact:** Michael Tel: 00 360 473 5386

Email: Michael.Six@ci.bremerton.wa.us

For more information visit: [www.nwfire.org](http://www.nwfire.org)

### 6 – 10 May 2013

#### Confederation of Fire Protection Association's (CFPA) fundamentals of fire investigation course

The course will promote a clear understanding of fire investigation and the rendering of opinion regarding origin and cause of fires

**Venue:** FPASA College, 105 Springbok Road, Bartlett, Boksburg, Gauteng, South Africa

**Contact:** Christine van der Westhuizen Tel: 011 397 1618 email: college@fpasa.co.za

For more information visit: [www.fpsa.co.za](http://www.fpsa.co.za)

### 6 – 10 May 2013

#### Cape Medical Response First Aid level 3 course

This is a five day course that expands theoretical and practical knowledge for anyone who is responsible for applying first aid

**Venue:** 106 Kommetjie Road, Fish Hoek, Cape Town, South Africa

**Contact:** Giles Tel: 021 782 0606 Cell: 082 782 4444

For more information visit:

[www.capemedicalresponse.co.za](http://www.capemedicalresponse.co.za)

### 9 – 11 May 2013

#### Fire Fighting European Helicopter Show

Demonstrations of forest and bush fire fighting helicopters and associated airborne and ground equipment

**Venue:** Letiště 98, 503 41, Hradec Králové 7, Czech Republic

**Contact:** Emma Davey Tel: 00 44 020 8549 5024 email: emma@avbuyer.com

For more information visit: [www.eurohelishow.com](http://www.eurohelishow.com)

### 9 – 11 May 2013

#### EDIAFC 86th Annual Conference

This conference covers everything from fire chiefting to traffic incident management

**Venue:** Annapolis Doubletree, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, Maryland

For more information visit: [www.ediafc.org](http://www.ediafc.org)

### 13 – 15 May 2013

#### Cape Medical Response First Aid level 1 course

The course is designed to equip students with basic theoretical knowledge and practical skills to deal with a variety of emergency medical situations.

**Venue:** 106 Kommetjie Road, Fish Hoek, Cape Town, South Africa

**Contact:** Giles Tel: 021 782 0606 Cell: 082 782 4444

For more information visit:

[www.capemedicalresponse.co.za](http://www.capemedicalresponse.co.za)

### 15 – 17 May 2013

#### South African Emergency Services Institute's 29th international conference, exhibition and training event

The conference and training event will cover vehicle extrication, urban search and rescue, high angle rescue, EMS challenge and emergency services combat challenge

**Venue:** Johannesburg Expo Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

**Contact:** Wiek Alberts Tel: 076 494 2609

email: [wieka@telkomsa.net](mailto:wieka@telkomsa.net)

For more information visit: [www.saesi.com](http://www.saesi.com)

### 21 – 22 May 2013

#### Intermediate Life Support (ILS) refresher/update course

A course aimed at all intermediate life support health care professionals. Developed to update/refresh all skills and ILS protocols as according to the health professions council of South Africa. CPD points will be awarded

**Venue:** Life Med Ambulance Services c/o Michael Brink (Nico Smith) and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Villieria, Pretoria, South Africa

**Contact:** Charmaine Oosthuizen Tel: 012 330 9413 or email: [training@lifemed911.co.za](mailto:training@lifemed911.co.za)

For more information visit: [www.lifemed911.co.za](http://www.lifemed911.co.za)

### 27 – 31 May 2013

#### Confederation of Fire Protection Association's (CFPA) certificate in principles of fire safety engineering course

The course covers the application of fire safety engineering principles to the design of buildings

**Venue:** FPASA College, 105 Springbok Road, Bartlett, Boksburg, Gauteng, South Africa

**Contact:** Christine van der Westhuizen Tel: 011 397 1618 email: college@fpasa.co.za

For more information visit: [www.fpsa.co.za](http://www.fpsa.co.za)

### 29 – 31 May 2013

#### Australian and New Zealand Disaster and Emergency Management Conference

The conference will provide a forum to examine the issues surrounding natural and man-made hazards

**Venue:** The Mercure Hotel, Brisbane, Australia

**Contact:** email: [admin@anzdmc.com.au](mailto:admin@anzdmc.com.au)

For more information visit: [www.anzdmc.com.au](http://www.anzdmc.com.au)



## 30 – 31 May 2013

### ARFF Copenhagen conference

The Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Working Group (ARFFWG) is a non-profit international organisation dedicated to the sharing of aircraft rescue and fire fighting (ARFF) information between airport fire fighters, municipal fire departments, and all others concerned with aircraft fire fighting

**Venue:** Copenhagen Airport A/S Auditorium, Lufthavnsboulevarden 6, 2770 Kastrup, Denmark.

For further information visit: [www.arffwg.org](http://www.arffwg.org)

## June

### 2 – 6 June 2013

#### Xtreme Industrial Fire and Hazard Training 2013

Xtreme celebrates its 20th Anniversary in 2013 with even more case studies, fire field logistics, live fire rotations and equipment operations helping prepare your fire brigade for flammable liquids fire response

**Venue:** Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza, Beaumont, Texas, USA

**Contact:** Brent Gaspard Tel: 00 225 288 1199  
email: [brent.gaspard@tycofp.com](mailto:brent.gaspard@tycofp.com)

For further information visit: [www.williamsfire.com](http://www.williamsfire.com)

### 3 – 7 June 2013

#### Confederation of Fire Protection Association's (CFPA) fundamentals of fire investigation course

The course will promote a clear understanding of fire investigation and the rendering of opinion regarding origin and cause

**Venue:** Cape Town, venue TBC

**Contact:** Christine van der Westhuizen Tel: 011 397 1618  
email: [college@fpasa.co.za](mailto:college@fpasa.co.za)

For more information visit: [www.fpsa.co.za](http://www.fpsa.co.za)

### 4 – 5 June 2013

#### Search and Rescue Seminar (SAR)

This conference has been developed to help identify and address important future international SAR developments. In addition, there will be operational and technical presentations from international civil and military operators from North America, Middle East, CIS, Asia and Australasia

**Venue:** TBA Bournemouth, United Kingdom

**Contact:** Kate Niven Tel: 00 44 0 1628 660400 or  
email [kniven@tangentlink.com](mailto:kniven@tangentlink.com)

For more information visit: [www.tangentlink.com](http://www.tangentlink.com)

### 6 – 9 June 2013

#### International Hazardous Materials Response Teams Conference

The conference promises informative sessions and unique hands on training designed to tackle the most pressing issues facing hazmat professionals

**Venue:** Hilton Hotel Baltimore, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

**Contact:** Shannon Gilliland Tel: 00 703 537 4838 or  
email: [sgilliland@iafc.org](mailto:sgilliland@iafc.org)

For more information visit: [www.iafc.org/hazmat](http://www.iafc.org/hazmat)

### 10 – 14 June 2013

#### Confederation of Fire Protection Association's (CFPA)

#### Fire prevention and safety strategies course

The course will cover the theory of fire legislation, flammable liquids and gases, fire hazards of electrical equipment, sprinklers and automatic fire detection systems, the organisation and management of fire teams and occupation fire brigades

**Venue:** to be confirmed

**Contact:** Christine van der Westhuizen Tel: 011 397 1618  
email: [college@fpasa.co.za](mailto:college@fpasa.co.za)

For more information visit: [www.fpsa.co.za](http://www.fpsa.co.za)

### 12 – 15 June 2013

#### Fire 2013 - NYSAFC 107th annual conference and expo

The NYSAFC conference and expo provides expanded educational programs, EMS CEU workshops, hands-on training exercises and exhibits.

**Venue:** Turning Stone Resort, Verona, New York, USA

For more information visit: [www.nysfirechiefs.com](http://www.nysfirechiefs.com)

### 16 – 22 June 2013

#### International Fire/EMS safety and health week

International Fire/EMS Safety and Health Week is a joint initiative of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Volunteer Fire Council. The event focuses on the critical importance of responders taking care of themselves both on and off the emergency incident scene.

For more information visit: [safetyandhealthweek.org](http://safetyandhealthweek.org)

### 24 – 28 June 2013

#### Confederation of Fire Protection Association's (CFPA) Fire prevention and safety strategies course

The course will cover the theory of fire legislation, flammable liquids and gases, fire hazards of electrical equipment, sprinklers and automatic fire detection systems, the organisation and management of fire teams and occupation fire brigades

**Venue:** to be confirmed

**Contact:** Christine van der Westhuizen Tel: 011 397 1618  
email: [college@fpasa.co.za](mailto:college@fpasa.co.za)

For more information visit: [www.fpsa.co.za](http://www.fpsa.co.za)

### 23 – 26 June 2013

#### The World Conference on Disaster Management

The conference will cover emergency management, resilience and risk management, crisis communication and business continuity

**Venue:** Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Canada

**Contact:** Merry Clayton Tel: 00 1 888 443 6786  
email: [mclayton@divcomevents.com](mailto:mclayton@divcomevents.com)

For more information visit: [www.wcdm.org](http://www.wcdm.org)

## July

### 9 – 11 July 2013

#### 3rd International Conference on Disaster Management and Human Health: reducing risk, improving outcomes

The conference will focus on current global health risks, and how best to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters

**Venue:** Wessex Institute of Technology, the New Forest, United Kingdom

**Contact:** Irene Moreno Millan  
email: [imoreno@wessex.ac.uk](mailto:imoreno@wessex.ac.uk)

## *My father was a fireman*

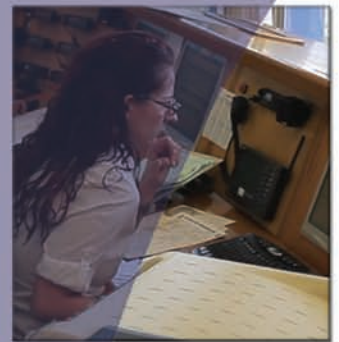
He drove a big red truck and when he'd go to work each day  
he'd say, "Mother wish me luck."  
Then Dad would not come home again  
'til sometime the next day.

But the thing that bothered me the most  
was the thing's some folks would say,  
"A fireman's life is easy,  
he eats and sleeps and plays,  
and sometimes he won't fight a fire  
for days and days."

When I first heard these words  
I was too young to understand,  
but I knew when people had trouble  
Dad was there to lend a hand.  
Then my father went to work one day  
and kissed us all goodbye,  
but little did we realise  
that night we all would cry.

My father lost his life that night  
when the floor gave way below  
and I'd wondered why he'd risk his life  
for someone he did not know.  
But now I truly realise  
the greatest gift a man can give  
is to lay his life upon the line  
so that someone else might live.

So as we go from day to day  
and we pray to God above  
say a prayer for your local fireman.  
He may save the one's you love.



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All types of PPV and NPV blowers, confined space blowers/extractor fans. Petrol, diesel, pneumatic and hydraulically powered blowers



All types of safety glasses and eye protection



Battery operated hydraulic tools and modular systems



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