

Stellenbosch hosts IFFD commemoration in Western Cape

Stellenbosch hosted the Western Cape International Fire Fighters' Day (IFFD) commemoration on Saturday, 4 May 2019. More than 50 vehicles from various fire services throughout the Western Cape Province partook in the motorcade that departed from Stellenbosch Fire Station and drove through Cloetesville to the Braak and included a drill squad formed and a fly by by two helicopters.

More than 2 000 people were in attendance with Magic 828 Music Radio keeping the crowd on their feet with upbeat music and announcements. One of the highlights was the Cape Winelands and Stellenbosch squad drill lead by the master class drillmaster, Heinrich Louw. City of Cape Town and Overstrand combined a rope rescue drill, while Cape Winelands and City of Cape Town hazardous materials decontamination also performed a drill, as did Volunteer Wildfire Services (VWS) Wildland Fire Suppression and City of Cape Town, who performed a foam drill. Stellenbosch Fire and Rescue Fire gave a life safety presentation and the Cape Town

Destroyers Team performed a vehicle extrication demonstration.

Chaplain Daniel Solomon opened the event with scripture reading and prayer and Heinrich Louw led the proceedings. Speeches included Stellenbosch's chief fire officer, Wayne Smith and municipal manager Geraldine Mettler, with Chief Smith thanking the political and administrative leadership of Stellenbosch Municipality for hosting the event as well as all chief fire officers for allowing their fire fighters and vehicles to partake in the event and the Western Cape Provincial Government and the Cape Winelands District Municipality for their support.

The team challenges were lively and were energetically cheered on by the supporters. The fire fighter team challenge consisted of teams of four fire fighters, who had to complete a set circuit with eight different stages.

Stage 1: Don PPE which included bunker gear and a SCBA set (members do not wear a mask and is not connected to the air supply.)
Stage 2: Carry a Stokes basket with

an 85kg manikin for 20m around a marker and back.

Stage 3: In teams of two, hit the Kaiser Force machine

Stage 4: Each member make up a 65m x 30m hose and deploy the hose

Stage 5: All four have to run through a tunnel

Stage 6: 20m tyre pull

Stage 7: Large tyre flip all four members

Stage 8: Charged 65mm hose drag

Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) won the team challenge, while Overstrand Municipality's Fire Department came second and Overberg District Municipality came third. The GRDM Team included Edwin Lottering, Johnathan van Vuuren, Heinrich Leslie, Emile Conrad and Armien Bailey.

Overstrand Municipality's Fire Department team members Justin Brussel, Cecil Abrahamse, Shaun Mackey and Earl Galant as well as team leader Ebriam Isaacs, represented the Overstrand at the event, with the support of fire chief Lester Smith and Angelo Aplon and other colleagues from the fire department. 

