

New incident command vehicle for Cape Winelands District Municipality



The Cape Winelands District Municipality's Fire Services took delivery of their new, state-of-the-art, custom-designed mobile incident command bus in July 2023.

"The Cape Winelands District Municipality has expressed the need for this vehicle for some time and it was finally manufactured after tender T2022/126 was awarded to Ramcom Trucks and Load Bodies in 2023", said Brandon Woolley, group director at Ramcom.

The need for a suitable, custom manufactured, mobile command

unit was increasing as the number of fires and incidents in the huge area covered by CWDM was increasing in numbers and intensity. The number one goal of CWDM has always been to protect lives, property and livelihood. They required the IC vehicle to accommodate all the role players involved in evaluating each incident. Role players then develop strategies to mitigate the impact of the incident on the environment and community from a comfortable, practical mobile bus.

"Ramcom Trucks and Load Bodies is extremely proud to

have been part of this amazing project. To be able to produce this vehicle and in partnership with the CWDM and the dedicated fire fighters and support teams, give back to service the community better", said Woolley.

The vehicle is built on an Isuzu chassis with the superstructure and the output profile is an integrated bus configuration.

The bus is equipped with the normal features such as air conditioning, mud flaps, lockable fuel cap, reverse buzzer and tinted windows. ▶



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Incident command vehicle



- ▶ The workstation and kitchen area boasts the following fitted and secured neatly to allow optimum productivity including individual seating on fixed swivel office chairs, worktop, plugs, radios, printer, microwave, fridge/freezer, LED lighting, inverter, LTE router, lockable cupboards and openable windows on either side of this space.

The ergonomically designed conference area has 10 seats to the left and the right of the bus facing a big 65 inch, fully interactive television. The 10 workstations have fixed, swivel chairs, electrical outlets,

HDMI ports, LED lighting, air conditioning, whiteboard and storage cupboards. There is a glass sliding door with sandblasted logos between the kitchen and the conference area.

The bus has a 30 metre heavy-duty extension cable (shoreline), solar system on the roof and a back-up generator to ensure that any situation at any time and any where can be handled efficiently and without the added concern of power restrictions.

There are lockers around the bottom (outside) of the bus for the generator, on board battery

bank and general storage purposes.

The bus is equipped with an electronic stability jack system providing optimum stability of the vehicle while stationary. A manual cranking awning system is fitted to the side of the bus providing shade for those operating outside the vehicle.

There is also a proper electrical DB box with all the networking and electrical requirements as well as two-way radios.

Chief Fire Officer Wayne Josias said, "The CWDM proudly



welcomed its state-of-the-art, custom-designed mobile incident command bus in July 2023. Employees were given the opportunity to name the vehicle and after much deliberation, she was officially christened ‘Lady Sentinel’ during the passing-out parade. The term sentinel is defined as guardian or protector, symbolising someone who watches over and stands guard. This perfectly encapsulates the function of the incident command bus. The Lady Sentinel will enable the CWDM, its partners and other stakeholders to assemble in an easily accessible vehicle to efficiently predict, plan and initiate mitigation actions in response to major incidents that threaten the community and property.”

“May The Sentinel stand firm and keep watch for many more years to come!” added Woolley. ▲

