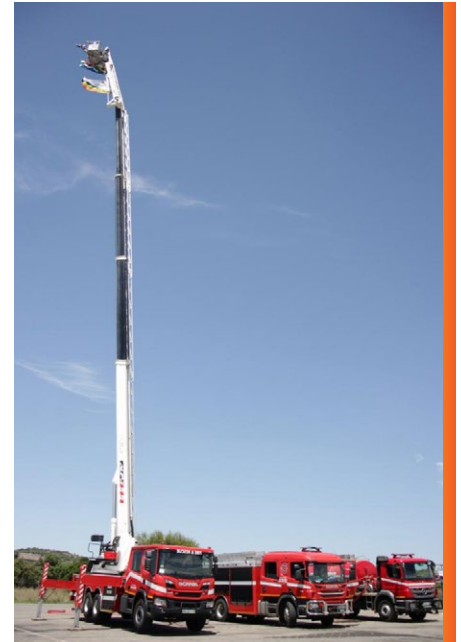


Mangaung Metro Municipality Fire and Rescue reaches new heights



Divisional officer, Braam van Zyl, said that they had a need for an apparatus such as this, as more people are living in the CBD than ever before. "This is a unique vehicle for a unique purpose. It is for high-rise buildings like in the CBD, where more people are starting to move to. The new aerial platform is not for everyday use but for special cases and when it is used, it plays a pivotal role."

The aerial platform allows them to fight fires on a direct level, as well as to combat fires in lower buildings from above.

A water canon in the cage allows the truck to deliver 3 200 litres of water per minute. The platform is also equipped to carry a weight of 500kg, which equals seven adults, in case of a rescue operation being executed from high structures. It also includes a number of advanced technology features, including safety sensors.

The aerial platform was on show for the public at the Safer Festive Season initiative held at the Shell Ultra City Pit Stop on the N1.

Photos: Pierce van Heerden ▲

The Mangaung Metro Municipality's Fire and Rescue Service boasts an all-new Cela 444e aerial platform built by Marcé on a Scania chassis that will not only help the department save lives but will also put it in an advanced position, using the latest technology.

Although the truck has been in operation for quite some time, it

was shown to the media and the public for the first time during a festive season safety campaign. The new state-of-the-art aerial platform reaches a height of 44 metres or 14 storeys, which will enable the department to fight fires in the metro, especially in the central business district (CBD), which is known for its high buildings.