

Fire guts 20 homes



HEAT WAVE: A firefighter takes a break and tries to cool down while battling the fire that spread from Scarborough to Ocean View yesterday.

PICTURE: EPA

80 people displaced as blaze sweeps through Ocean View

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FIREFIGHTERS were last night still battling to contain blazes that started in Scarborough in the early hours of yesterday and quickly spread, damaging at least 20 homes and displacing more than 80 people in nearby Ocean View.

City fire and rescue spokesman Theo Layne said the Ocean View fire was being fanned by strong south-easterly winds and was blowing high up the slopes of the mountain.

He added that the homes that were burnt were in the Rasta Camp in Ocean View.

The fire affected Ocean View, Scarborough, Misty Cliffs and Kommetjie, and firefighters and volunteers were expected to have to work through the night.



CURIOUS: Residents rush to the scene of a fire where firefighters were still battling to douse flames in Scarborough last night.

PICTURE: CINDY WAXA

"We have approximately 200 firefighters from various services, including 100 city firefighters, Working on Fire, Table Mountain National parks, Volunteer Wildland Fire Services on the scene, and they will remain through the night," Layne said.

The firefighters set up command posts in Ocean View and Marti Weddepohl, managing director of Mercy Networks, an NGO specialising in the provision of disaster distress relief, was providing water and food for the firefighters yesterday.

Weddepohl said no houses were burnt in Scarborough but that from what she could see, firefighters were still battling with flare-ups.

The fire comes after firefighters battled fires in the Table Mountain National Park at the weekend.

Philip Prins, Table Mountain National Parks fire manager, said there was some suspicion that some of the fires had been started deliberately.

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