



WOFIRE NEWS

Saving Lives • Protecting the Environment • Restoring Dignity

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Working on Fire



Working on Fire - WOF TV News Channel



@wo_fire

Announcement of new Minister

Nomvula Paula Mokonyane is the new Minister of Environmental Affairs appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Minister Mokonyane was appointed on 22 November 2018 following the untimely passing of our previous Minister, Edna Molewa.

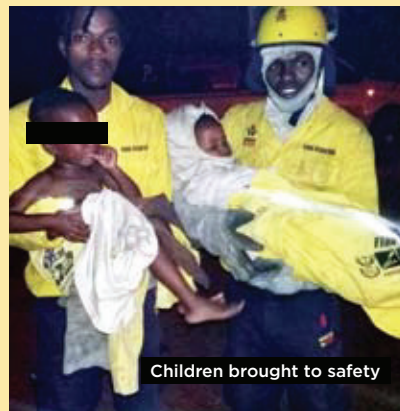
Minister Mokonyane was first appointed to the Cabinet of South Africa in May 2014, serving as Minister of Water and Sanitation, and she became Minister of Communication in January 2018. Prior to serving in Cabinet, she served as the Premier of Gauteng after the 2009 South African general elections.

We wish Minister Mokonyane well in her new portfolio and we look forward to working with her.



Going beyond the call of duty to make a difference in our communities

Going above and beyond the call of duty and living the Working on Fire value of 'Making a Difference' in the lives of communities that we serve was again evident during fire suppression activities



Children brought to safety

in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape.

The first incident in Limpopo occurred when the Vingerkraal Team was called to assist at a fire in the Elandsfontein sector in the Waterberg District on 14 November 2018. The firefighters had to rescue a mother and her two children from the raging flames.

In the second incident, firefighters from the Witelsbos Team in the Eastern Cape did an amazing job assisting an elderly burn victim during the fires that occurred recently near Witelsbos in the Tsitsikamma region.

Written by: Matema Gwangwa and Nthabiseng Mokone



Working on Fire First Aiders give first aid to the fire victim

Applause for firefighters as Working on Fire celebrates 15 years of service

Working on Fire is 15 years old this year and to celebrate this huge milestone, more than 300 firefighters from all the provinces gathered outside Hekpoort, Magaliesberg, to take part in the Azishe Sport Games for four days.

Speaking at the 15th Anniversary Celebrations and Azishe Games prizegiving, Nceba Ngcobo, Director Operations: National Programmes, at the Department of Environmental Affairs, encouraged firefighters to continue doing the outstanding work as it was "not for the faint-hearted". "We will continue to support this life-changing initiative. We'll make sure the legacy continues."

Working on Fire was also applauded for the work it does in saving lives and protecting our environment by Stanley Henderson, the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Public Works. "I feel

extremely honoured to be part of this initiative, especially in its 15-year milestone. I speak with humility. What you are doing is very brave. Keep up the good work," he said.

Both Stanley and Nceba also received 15 Year Recognitions Awards on behalf of the Department of Public Works and Environmental Affairs' respectively, for the ongoing support Working on Fire continues to receive from these departments over the past 15 years.

Ronnie Mbatsane, ABSA Managing Executive for the Mpumalanga-KwaZulu-Natal Region, also handed over a donation towards the WOF Kids Care Packages and to help firefighters who lost their possessions during the fires in the Garden Route. "We really appreciate the job you do. This donation is a token of our appreciation and our way of showing that you matter", Ronnie said.



15-Year Recognition Awards were handed to Stanley Henderson representing Department of Public Works and Sharon Lawrence and Nceba Ngcobo from the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Editorial

Welcome to our November Newsletter.

Working on Fire hosted the 2018 Azishe Games along with the 15-Year Celebrations in Gauteng in November. Read all about the event, the winners and the 15-Year Celebrations awardees. We also report with pride on the achievements of the participants who flew the WOF flag high at the Soweto Marathon and brought home medals. This issue recounts the extraordinary bravery of our firefighters who saved several lives during a fire and others who came to the aid of a burn victim.

We also report on our teams' fire education activities and preparations for the summer fire season. As most provinces wrapped up the winter fire season, Fire Protection Associations showed their appreciation for the hard work done by the WOF teams by hosting teams at several events.

Well done to all our participants. We are proud of you.

Happy Reading.

KZN officially celebrates 15 years in Howick

Working on Fire KwaZulu-Natal celebrated 15 years of service at the Howick West Community Hall with provincial stakeholders, community members and national executive members. The uMngeni, Albert Falls and Karkloof teams welcomed the senior managers with a guard of honour when they entered the venue.

WOF KwaZulu-Natal Acting General Manager, Dave Williams, spoke about the impact Working on Fire has made on families throughout South Africa, and encouraged participants to never take what they do lightly.

uMngeni Municipality Ward Councillor, Sthembiso Nkuna, praised



Various activities of celebrations

the work the Working on Fire Programme has been doing in his community. "We have seen a reduction in fires, especially in informal settlements in Howick, all thanks to these brave young men and women," said Nkuna.

Nolwazi Mntambo recited a touching poem about being proud of her mother, who is now a Type 3 dispatcher at WOF. She praised the Working on Fire firefighters who leave their families, not knowing

if they'll return, for raising her, as being a WOF Child, she was growing up in the programme.

The province thanked WOF Managing Director, Trevor Abrahams, for his eleven-year contribution and for caring and sculpting the programme to be the success it is today.



Nompilo Zondi, KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Communication Officer

MD Message:

Trevor Abrahams



Annual Azishe Games

The 2018 Annual National Azishe Games ended on Sunday, 18 November, with KwaZulu-Natal crowned as overall winners of

the fifth edition of the Games. The Azishe Games were hosted outside Hekpoort in Gauteng and coincided with our 15-Year Celebrations. The Azishe Games is an opportunity for firefighters to compete against colleagues from other provinces and showcase their talents.

Well done to all the participants who were at the Games and congratulations to KwaZulu-Natal for being the winners of Azishe 2018.

Festive Season

As we come to the end of an eventful 2018, we wish all our firefighters a peaceful and joyous festive season. To those in the northern fire season, we hope you will use this period to rest, spend time with family and friends and reflect on your personal progress before returning in the new year, refreshed and dedicated to your personal growth and to contributing to wildland fire management in South Africa. We wish all our firefighters deployed in fire season a safe and successful season. Take care, stay safe and make us proud.

Firefighters commended for bravery

I want to commend the firefighters who went above and beyond the call of duty during fire suppression activities in Limpopo and the Eastern Cape recently. Their bravery and commitment in saving lives demonstrated what it means to live the Working on Fire value of 'Making a



Molebogeng Matlala, Simon Molapo, Abraham Nakana, Jan Molekoa, Sello Ncosane

Difference' in the lives of the communities that we serve.

Trade Union Issues - GIWUSA

The Johannesburg Labour Court granted a Final Order of the Court in October in favour of Working on Fire, interdicting the General Industries Workers Union of South Africa (GIWUSA), which has repeatedly allowed their members to unlawfully and without reason disrupt the workplace, causing damage to property and vehicles.

This situation became untenable as an overwhelming majority of the Working on Fire workforce did not support these unlawful activities and it necessitated us to approach the Labour Court to ask for urgent intervention in these acts of the union and its members.

In summary, some of the key detail of the final order granted:

- The repeated abandoning of the workplace by GIWUSA and its members who are engaged in firefighting services, which service has been declared to be an essential service, has been declared an unlawful and

unprotected strike and not in compliance with the Labour Relations Act, Act 66 of 1995.

- GIWUSA and its members are interdicted and restrained from assaulting, intimidating, harassing or otherwise threatening Working on Fire's employees.
- GIWUSA and its members are interdicted and restrained from setting fire to, or damaging in whatever manner, the property of Working on Fire, including but not limited to the firefighting equipment and vehicles at the bases where they are stationed.
- GIWUSA and its members are ordered not to abandon their workplaces without official authority to do so.
- GIWUSA is interdicted and restrained from inciting its members or other employees of Working on Fire to participate in an unlawful and unprotected strike, or to assault, intimidate, harass or threaten the employees of Working on Fire.
- GIWUSA is ordered to inform and encourage its members to cease their participation in an unprotected strike or any related conduct.
- GIWUSA is also ordered to distribute and issue all disciplinary notices emanating from disciplinary procedures from Working on Fire to its members.

If GIWUSA and its members fail to adhere to the Court order, remedies available could include monetary sanctions, imprisonment for officials and members or being charged with contempt of court.

We want to make it clear that Working on Fire has been deemed as an "Essential Services Employee" as per the Ruling of the CCMA Essential Services Committee (ESC) in January 2018 and employees of Working on Fire may therefore not participate in any protest or strike action. We strongly discourage our employees from participating in any unlawful actions.

Anyone, including GIWUSA, who fails to adhere to the court order will make themselves guilty of contempt of court and WOF will act against those that will not abide by this order.

There are already several disciplinary cases under way where a small minority of employees have blatantly disrupted work or damaged properties and vehicles belonging to Working on Fire and its base partners.

Working on Fire respects the right of its employees to belong to trade unions but we will not in any way tolerate illegal and unlawful disruption of operations and damage to our property and those of our base partners.

We do meet with unions that have members among WOF personnel, but these meetings do not mean we have granted recognition rights to these unions. We wish to reiterate that Working on Fire does not have any recognition agreement with GIWUSA.

We thus hope that all WOF employees will recognise these developments and ensure that we work together in a disciplined manner and with mutual respect and avoid actions which may be deemed in conflict with the law.

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Working on Fire is on Social Media |



Working on Fire is on YouTube (Working on Fire TV News) |



Environmental Affairs
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Co-operative Governance
Water and Sanitation

Working on Fire is an Expanded Public Works Programme which resides within the Department of Environmental Affairs.



THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR A REMARKABLE EFFORT



Working on Fire's participation in the multiple fires in the Southern Cape (Western Cape) and the Tsitsikamma Region of the Eastern Cape have been greatly appreciated and acknowledged across the board.

We have also receiving extensive media coverage and acknowledgments. A big thank you to our firefighters, management and communication team.

Working on Fire Aviation also played a significant role in these firefighting operations. A big thank you to all our pilots and flying crewmen and all aviation support staff.

This is a critical development in the re-establishment of the Working on Fire brand and augurs well for our future. These fires come at an unusual time for

this region in South Africa, but in the future, we will have to be prepared for more such events as the negative effects of climate change are experienced at an increasingly regular basis.

Already, I am getting messages from individual firefighters in other provinces saying: "Thuma Mina - send me."

Trevor Abrahams, Managing Director

KZN continues with Fire Awareness Education



The Nkandla Team demonstrates how to suppress a fire

KwaZulu-Natal continued with their fire awareness education programme at KwaNongoma, with representatives of the KZN Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs department (COGTA) and Provincial Disaster Management Centre in attendance.

As part of KZN's measures to deal with disasters, COGTA officials, led by the MEC, Nomusa Dube-Ncube, handed out lightning conductors to households in Nongoma.

The event gave various stakeholders an opportunity to raise awareness about the risks community members will face in this festive season.

KZN Community Fire Awareness Officer, Simphiwe Dlamini says, "Even though we are in the summer season, there are still risks of unwanted fires in communities. These include thunderstorms, which could also cause fires, strong winds, flood rains and also electrical household fires."

"The importance of understanding the causes of fire and how community members can reduce the risk of unwanted fires were emphasised. The event informed them of the types of fires and how to extinguish them, ensuring that they will be safe this summer season," says Dlamini.

The Nkandla Team also constructed a firewall and demonstrated fire suppression to community members.



Nompilo Zondi, KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Communication Officer

WOF Aviation thanks its crew members for their contributions this season

This has been another good but interesting winter fire season for Working on Fire Aviation. The 2018 winter fire season started off quietly, but rapidly picked up towards the end of August as the Fire Danger Index increased. By the end of October, WOF aircraft had assisted in fighting 162 wildfires and flown a combined total of 920 hours for the season.

The northern fire season was just coming to an end when the Vermaaklikheid and Tsitsikamma fires broke out in the Southern Cape at the end of October. Fourteen resources were deployed immediately to assist in saving lives, properties and the environment in the Southern Cape.

"The unpredictable weather conditions and thick smoke made flying very difficult, but amidst these challenges, our aircraft contributed greatly towards extinguishing the fires," says Mike Assad, National Operations Manager for WOF Aviation. "Unfortunately, one of our veteran helicopter pilots, Nico Heyns, lost his life while combatting the fire in



Aviation crew at the end of a long day during the Southern Cape fires

Vermaaklikheid. Nico was a hero, a good pilot and a good friend and will be sorely missed."

By 15 November, all WOF's aircraft had completed the northern season and were being relocated to the south or undergoing maintenance in preparation for the upcoming summer fire season.

"We would like to thank all our aviation crew (pilots, ASV drivers, Flying Crewmen and helitack teams) for their total commitment and hard work. We wish them a very safe summer fire season," says Assad.

Written by Zania Viljoen

HAT rewarded for excellent results

In November, the High Altitude Teams (HAT) in the Western Cape took a day to celebrate the hard work put in by the participants.

The Genadendal HAT Team and base manager, Lawrence Odendal, all the HAT Crew Leaders and Cape Town-based management members were invited to the Two Oceans Aquarium for a sponsored tour as a reward for their excellent results in a recent Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) Audit, as well as their overall operational performance.

Ground Operations Manager, Jason de Smidt says, "The teams really



The HAT Team members and management at the Two Oceans Aquarium

enjoyed the outing, especially enjoying the sharks and penguins. The tour served as a reminder about the critical role that the High Altitude Teams play in the whole water cycle. By clearing invasive alien plants in the mountain catchments,

more water is released and more life can be sustained in the ecosystems downstream, all the way to the sea."



Lauren Howard, Western Cape Provincial Communication Officer

Participants' sport passions shine at the 2018 Azishe Games

The 2018 Azishe National Games, the fifth edition of the Games, ended on Sunday 18 November outside Hekpoort in Gauteng.

Just over 300 firefighters from all provinces participated in the Games, which also formed part of the 15-Year Celebrations of Working on Fire. The competitors were passionate and the standings changed by the hour as provinces gave their all trying to be crowned champions.

While the soccer tournaments for men and women occupied the centre stage of the games, several other activities such as

archery, pistol shooting and golf brought a new experience to many of the participants. Limpopo won the Men's Premier League and Free State won the Women's Premier League Soccer Competitions. Other activities such as the 2.4 km run, fitness test and tent pitching were more familiar to our firefighters.

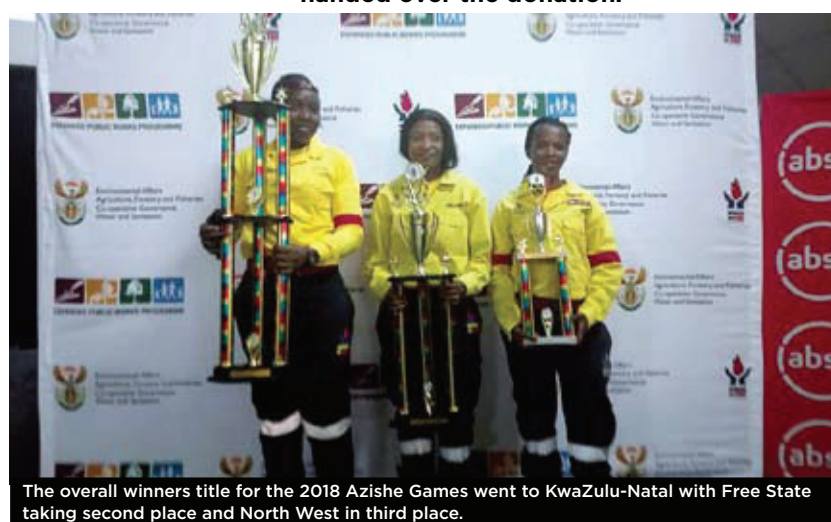
The Games activities included the Choir Competition, Social Development performances and a Mr and Miss Azishe competition. KwaZulu-Natal walked away as overall winners of Azishe 2018, with Free State in second place and North West in third place.

The Azishe Games programme was graced by speeches by the founder Johan Heine, Department of Public Works Deputy Director-General, Stanley Henderson, Kobus Roux of the North West UFPA, WOF MD Trevor Abrahams and Kgomotso Moagi, a fifteen-year veteran who joined as a firefighter in 2003.

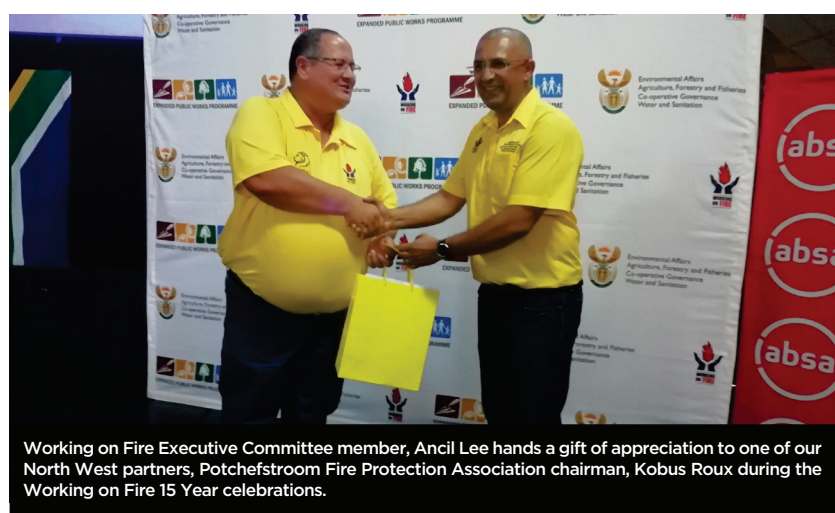
Working on Fire also received a R100 000 donation from Absa for the WOF Kids Care Packages and to support firefighters who lost their belongings in the recent Karatara fire on the Garden Route. Ronnie Mbatsane, Absa Managing Executive for KZN and Mpumalanga, handed over the donation.



WOF Managing Director Trevor Abrahams and some of the firefighters who fought the George/Tsitsikamma fires accept generous donations from Absa.



The overall winners title for the 2018 Azishe Games went to KwaZulu-Natal with Free State taking second place and North West in third place.



Working on Fire Executive Committee member, Ancil Lee hands a gift of appreciation to one of our North West partners, Potchefstroom Fire Protection Association chairman, Kobus Roux during the Working on Fire 15 Year celebrations.



KwaZulu-Natal overall winners



Former participants who started as firefighters and climbed the corporate ladder within WOF were also recognised for their long service.



Mr and Mrs Azishe

Participants' sport passions shine at the 2018 Azishe Games



In the man's premier league KwaZulu-Natal played against Limpopo. Limpopo won with penalties.



Participants made tent pitching look easy, assembling tents effortlessly.



Some participants performed well despite the fact that they had never touched a firearm in their lives.



Push-ups were among the exercises provinces competed in.



Gauteng and Mpumalanga Ladies came face to face in the women's soccer Premier League. Mpumalanga took third position after knocking Gauteng out of contention.

WOF Free State responds to Garden Route fires



The Zastron Team that served during the Garden Route fires

Working on Fire Free State contributed 190 firefighters, drivers and management staff to assist with the recent fires on the Garden Route in the Western Cape. The disastrous fires destroyed thousands of hectares of vegetation and many properties. However, because of the intervention of these brave firefighters and colleagues, the damage was contained after many hours of firefighting in the George, Waboomskraal, Geelhoutboom, Jonkersberg, Goudveld, Seven Passes, Diepwalle and Buffelsnek areas.

These young heroes and the partners in the province, the NFPA, Greater Overberg FPA, Southern Cape FPA, Cape Peninsula FPA, Cape Nature and many others, sacrificed time away from their own homes and families to save the lives and homes of strangers.

WOF Mpumalanga remains on high alert

Working on Fire in Mpumalanga experienced a rather busy 2018 winter fire season – and it is not over yet. Even though the season traditionally ends on 31 October, the high Fire Danger Index readings are indicating an extended fire season. According to Martin Bolton, the General Manager for WOF Mpumalanga, we have not yet had good rains and therefore wildfires are likely.

“We are hoping that the rains will come by December so that our teams can enjoy a well-deserved rest after a busy 2018 fire season,” explains Bolton. “Until then, we urge people to refrain from starting fires unnecessarily or leaving fires unattended.”

Working on Fire has about 600 firefighters located at 24 bases across Mpumalanga. These teams assisted



A wildfire burning between trees

in suppressing nearly 200 fires across the province this season. The province also has four airbases which were just as busy: aircraft flew a combined total of 514 hours, offering aerial support to

WOF ground teams at 110 wildfires this season.

“Management thanks all firefighters and staff for their passion and dedication towards saving lives and protecting the environment. Thank you also for the numerous fire awareness and social development campaigns you conducted. We also thank our partners. Together we definitely made a difference this season,” says Bolton. “We would also like to wish our colleagues in the Western Cape all the best for the fire season which has already started. Stay safe.”

Written by Zania Viljoen

Workshop for Eastern Cape Type 1 Crew Leaders

Working on Fire in the Eastern Cape recently conducted a Type 1 Crew Leader workshop in Stutterheim.

The purpose of the workshop was to equip crew leaders with leadership skills, refresh them on the policies of the company and motivate and assist them to deal with the problems they face daily at the base level. The workshop also incorporated the values of Working on Fire which are Accountability, Teamwork, Adaptability, Excellence and Making a Difference. Crew leaders were told that WOF management, staff members and participants should live according to these values as living these values would create a caring organisation that is committed to protecting lives and saving our environment.

Bukeka Mgxabayi, one of the crew leaders who attended the workshop, says that the workshop had assisted her a lot and will make her a better leader.



Eastern Cape Type 1 crew leaders get equipped

“We learnt that as a leader you have to always communicate with your team, motivate your team, be positive even in hard times and always give feedback,” says Mgxabayi.



Nthabiseng Mokone, Eastern Cape Provincial Communication Officer

Drivers undergo vehicle management training

Amor Adlem, Head of Transport at Working on Fire, and Pieter Esterhuizen, an instructor at Action Saver Driving School, conducted a driver training refresher course for 26 WOF drivers in the Western Cape ahead of the 2018/19 fire season.

Adlem says, “It was an honour and a privilege to see the results that came through in the province. We urge the drivers to apply what they have learnt and keep their good attitudes and, overall, to be excellent vehicle managers.”

The transport department is a key component of the success of our teams in attending fires. Drivers are responsible for safely getting firefighters to and from the fire line and also sometimes have to take long journeys to drive our teams to assist in other provinces.

The training focused on being aware of the rules of the road, fuel card use, fire line safety, pre-trip inspections, defensive driving, vehicle equipment capabilities, vehicle water delivery, practical demonstrations of pumps, hand signals, communication and safety procedures when transporting participants to the fire line and



The driver training refresher course practical took place at the Newlands Base

having competent driving skills.

The refresher course confirmed that our drivers were fully competent to execute their role in the Working on Fire programme.

Adlem says, “The purpose of training was to ensure that we refresh our drivers to a point of being vehicle managers and to ensure that they go on the roads with the right attitude and the right spirit. The outcome was exceptional and they all passed and are ready to tackle the upcoming fire season.”



Lauren Howard, Western Cape Provincial Communication Officer

Fire safety training for WOF partner

Community Fire Awareness Officer, Lerato Mokwena, presented a FireSafe workshop recently to the employees of the Youth for Christ Training Centre in Hekpoort where the Azishe Games are to take place.

Mokwena says the owners of the centre asked Working on Fire to train them in basic fire safety because they are in fire-prone area.

“The workshop touched on fire protection and prevention, the National Veld and Forest Fire Act of 1998, tips on getting ready for the winter fire season and measures to protect property from fires,” says Mokwena.

She says it was an exciting workshop because she was able to provide solutions to problems and challenges they faced every year.



CFAO Lerato Mokwena doing a fire safety workshop with employees of the Youth for Christ Training Centre

“We encouraged and urged the owners to consider joining a local fire protection association so that they could get help from our Working on Fire team in Maropeng,” she says, adding that the West Rand area is a hotspot for veld and forest fires and records a high number of fires during the fire season every year.

The Maropeng team is partnered with the Doornhoek Fire Protection association. Mokwena says she will continue to engage many other landowners in the area.



Parapara Makgahlela, Gauteng Provincial Communication Officer

WOF KwaZulu-Natal hosts Early Childhood Development workshop

Working on Fire (WOF) partnered with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development to present a refresher workshop for 14 Early Childhood Workshop educators in the uMngeni Municipality in Howick.

The workshop was part of WOF's strategy to address the prevention and control of wildland fires to enhance the sustainability and protection of life, poverty and the environment through the implementation of integrated fire management products and services.

The workshop covered understanding the Fire Danger Index, impacts



KZN FATO Bongumusa Nyathi, presenting to the educators

of fires, fire risk assessment, a fire management plan and also what to do in case of a fire.

WOF KZN Community Fire Awareness Officer, Simphiwe Dlamini says, "Since we conducted this workshop last year, the aim was to evaluate how the education centres were doing and also to advise them on smart ways to ensure they and their learners are safe at the centres in case of fires."

It is imperative for educators to be fire safe as fires may also occur at schools, and for their learners to know the

importance of not playing with flammable chemicals at home or at school. Educators were also taught the importance of an evacuation plan and having fire extinguishers at their centres.

"We stressed the importance of knowing how to use a fire extinguisher because it can be the deciding factor between life and death in an emergency. Educators were very engaged during the workshop," says Dlamini.



Nompilo Zondi, KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Communication Officer

FPA honours firefighters for excellent work



Kobus Roux, the chairman of the Potchefstroom Fire Protection Association, addresses the Castello Team

North West experienced a number of fires during the winter fire season that could have caused enormous damage to the environment. However, with the help of the Working on Fire teams in the province, no lives were lost and damage to property and the environment was limited.

The teams worked tirelessly across the province to suppress these fires and their work did not go unrecognised. On behalf of the Potchefstroom Fire Protection Association (PFPA), chairperson Kobus Roux hosted a braai to thank the Castello Team for their hard work and dedication to suppressing fires.

Speaking to the firefighters at the event, Roux said the FPA wanted the firefighters to know that they appreciated their work and said that it was comforting to know that there were dedicated WOF teams to help contain fires.

Working on Fire North West General Manager, Nolvuyo Mashologu, said it was always motivating to the firefighters when FPAs acknowledged their hard work. She also thanked the FPA for the good working relationship it had with WOF.

Written by Editorial

Taking fire awareness to the community



Makhado participants educating communities in the door-to-door campaign

Makhado Team firefighters embarked on a door-to-door fire awareness campaign at Maelula, Murunwa and Tshedza, three villages outside Makhado in Limpopo. Community members were taught about the do's and don'ts of handling fires in the household.

"The main reason we embarked on this door-to-door campaign is that we realised that the attendance was very low at the community awareness workshops that we host during the week, due to people having to be at work. We then took it upon ourselves to take the education to the people in the comfort of their homes," says Gumanzi Sekhwayi, the Makhado Base Communications Representative.

Community members were also educated about how to identify and eliminate fire hazards inside their homes and were given tips on how to make their homes fire safe.



Matema Gwangwa, Limpopo Provincial Communication Officer

Farming community attends FireSafe workshop

Community Fire Awareness Officer, Sophy Dinko, facilitated a FireSafe presentation for a farming community at the Dryharts Tribal Office, outside Vryburg. The aim was to introduce Working on Fire and explain how WOF assists communities to reduce the risk of veld fires and protect themselves against fires.

During the presentation, Dinko emphasised the importance of a fire safe community and how steps taken to get the community fire safe can decrease the risks of veldfires. Dinko also explained how the farming community can play a role in reducing fire risk, damage to property and loss of livestock.



Community Fire Awareness Officer, Sophy Dinko, during the FireSafe presentation

Following the FireSafe presentation, the farmers realised that they needed the services of Working on Fire and requested that Dinko return to facilitate another FireSafe workshop for the farmers on 15 November.

Written by Editorial

WOF teams educate communities on fire safety

Educating communities, and especially the youth, on fire safety plays a vital part in the implementation of integrated fire management (IFM). It has a noticeable influence on reducing the number of fires that start and spread in communities. This season, teams across Mpumalanga put a lot of effort into school awareness campaigns, door-to-door fire awareness campaigns and exhibitions at trade shows.

The Loskop Team conducted school fire awareness activities at the Kopanong and Baptist pre-schools. Bongani Mthimunye (Loskop's BCR), says that educating children on the dangers of fires is very important. They also conducted a door-to-door fire awareness campaign in Masakhaneng.

The Badplaas Team conducted a presentation at Mbhejeka Primary School. According to Mxolisi Mbhejeka (BCR), fires are often caused by the negligence of children. The team also did a door-to-door awareness activity in the Tjakastad community.



A Badplaas Team member educates a community member on the importance of fire safety

The Sasol Team joined a number of other Emergency Management Services for a week-long fire prevention event at Sasol West Fire Station. They demonstrated their firefighting techniques and fire awareness presentations to a number of companies that attended the event.

Mbuso Siwela, Community Fire Awareness Officer, and Mathews Mthimunye, a Type 1 Crew Leader from Sterkspruit, were guests on Let's Talk

on Mash FM Stereo, during which they discussed IFM with the host, George Maphanga.

The Barberton Team visited Barberton Prison to conduct a fire awareness presentation on the causes of fire, how fire can be prevented and how to react when a fire occurs.

The Nkomazi Team visited Eyethu Pre-school to teach the learners more about fire safety.

The Mayflower Team held a fire awareness presentation at Zonstraal Military Base to educate the military personnel on fire prevention and protection measures, as they often camp in close proximity to plantations.

Written by Zania Viljoen



Molemole participants donated vegetables from their garden and groceries to Maphosa Drop-in Centre

Molemole reaches out to the needy

WOF participants across the country are dedicated to investing in the communities where they serve.

"We are not only concerned about ourselves but about the well-being of others as well, especially from our community," says Selaelo Chepape, a Type 1 Crew Leader at Molemole in Limpopo.

The Molemole participants have been actively involved in developing their vegetable garden since the inception of the base.

The garden initiative was started by the Social Development Department to encourage WOF participants to eat healthily and to use the produce of their gardens for their own benefit.

On 25 October, the Molemole participants harvested their vegetables and donated some to the Maphosa Drop-in Centre. The participants used their own money to buy the children at the centre some groceries as well.



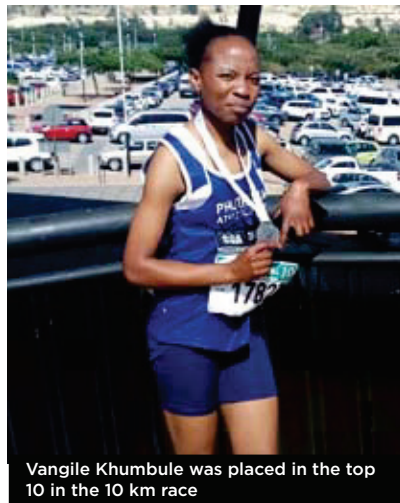
Matema Gwangwa, Limpopo Provincial Communication Officer

WOF Free State participants shine at Soweto Marathon

WOF Assistant Regional Manager Azola Bangani and Vangile Khumbule, from the Heilbron Base, both competed in the Annual Soweto marathon hosted in Gauteng recently. There were three races on the day over 42.2 km, 21.1 km and 10 km. Khumbule competed in the 10km race and finished in the top 10 with a time of 42:21 minutes.

"This year's Soweto Marathon was very tough for me. I was preparing to run the 21 km but a few days before the race I was informed that I would be competing in the 10 km race, which needs a different way of training. I'm happy with my position regardless of the challenges I faced and I would like to thank the Working on Fire Management for always supporting me with these big races," says Khumbule.

Bangani competed in the 42 km race and finished with a time of 04:17:00. "The race was challenging yet exciting at the same time as it was my first Soweto Marathon. We received support from



Vangile Khumbule was placed in the top 10 in the 10 km race

the Soweto community and this made the race more bearable to complete," says Bangani.



Wayne Mokhehi, Free State Provincial Communication Officer

WOF takes on the Golden Gate Challenge

The Golden Gate Challenge is a three-day track and trail run through some of the most rugged mountains of the Free State, situated in the Golden Gate Highlands National Park. The course includes many of the most scenic parts of the park, like Little Serengeti and Cathedral Caves.

Three participants from the Golden Gate Team took on the challenge, which consists of three staged runs amounting to 73 kilometres in three days, beginning at a single base camp in the park. The first day featured the 27 km race, the second day had the 29 km run and day three ended the event with a 17 km race. The competitors' three times were combined to determine the winners.

Sipho Mofokeng, a Type 1 Crew Leader, managed to finish the races with the following times: 27 km 03:00:00; 29 km 03:10:06 and 17 km 01:30:09. Makhanya Leboelo managed 03:04:00 in the 27 km, 03:22:20 in the 29 km and 01:45:30 in the 17 km, while BCR Teboho Motloutung contributed 03:30:10, 03:45:00 and 01:56:01 in the respective races.



Makhanya Leboelo, Sipho Mofokeng and Teboho Motloutung from Golden Gate Base

Mofokeng, who finished the races in third position overall says, "It was a tough challenge because of the mountainous terrain but, even though it was my first marathon and was not on a flat surface, I surprised myself with my results. I would like to compete again next year."



Wayne Mokhehi, Free State Provincial Communication Officer

Participant moves on

Vuyiseka Tyomfa has exited the programme to become a waitress at a local franchise. She was formerly based at the Krugersdorp Team where she was the storekeeper.

Aside from valuable work experience gained at WOF, she says, "I used to work for Shoprite. This gave me experience and knowledge."

Dealing with clients requires that you be disciplined and patient at all times, she says of her new duties.

"I am grateful that, after a three-year stint in the programme, I was able to move to a better paying job," she says.



Parapara Makgahlela, Gauteng Provincial Communication Officer



Vuyiseka Tyomfa was a storekeeper at the Krugersdorp Base

Compliments pour in



Working on Fire's base partners in Gauteng gave a thumbs-up to the great work done by teams during this year's winter fire season, says General Manager Stephen Boyes.

He says the base partners appreciated the good job done by the teams.

Gerhard Nieuwoudt, Krugersdorp fire department chief, emailed to say, "Thanks, WOF was great this season. Thanks for all the effort and hard work".

Mark Aitcheson, chairperson of Hekpoort Fire Protection Association, commended the Maropeng Team for the safe fire season experienced as

a result of its early preparation of firebreaks prior to the start of the winter fire season.

"The team maintained discipline during the fire season. Many commercial farmers were saved from disastrous fires as results of the remarkable work done by the Maropeng Team," he said, adding that he had not known that WOF firefighters were such professionals to work with.

Both base partners wished the firefighters well over the festive season.



Parapara Makgahlela, Gauteng Provincial Communication Officer