



# KWAZULU-NATAL

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## Working on Fire to work closely with fire authorities to reduce fire risks

### To implement Integrated Fire Management products and services

Working on Fire which is our government programme to help fight veld and forest fires, has been hard at work during the last few months as its fire fighters were busy preparing for the 2016 Winter Fire Season.

The Yellow Card Training Camps will be held soon and these are aimed to ensure that all fire fighters are fit and ready to

be able to be on active duty during this upcoming fire season.

As a result of the current drought experienced throughout the country we do expect a very difficult Winter Fire Season but we firmly believe that through our partnerships with Provincial Disaster Management Centres, Fire Protection Associations, SANParks,

various private and public landowners and local municipalities, we will be able to respond quickly in rendering a highly skilled veldfire suppression service which is unparalleled anywhere in the country.

Working on Fire has also established a national deployment team which can be dispatched to anywhere in the country to

assist farmers and land owners with fires suppression efforts.

We urge landowners in particular to get into contact with us so that we can assist with the development of clear integrated fire management services which includes amongst others, prescribed burning, fuel load reduction, community fire awareness, early detection and fire suppression plans.



## KZN fire fighters get ready for Winter Fire Season

**With fire season just around the corner, Working on Fire in KwaZulu-Natal has started early preparations with Yellow Card Training Camps at the Albert Falls Dam and at Umlalazi Nature Reserve.**

Working on Fire KZN general manager Carl van Loggerenberg said the Yellow Card Training Camps were there to ensure that all the fire fighters are fit and ready for the upcoming fire season. "Teams go through a three-day intensive training camp, a fitness test which includes push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups and a 2,4 km run. In addition we also do various refresher training on health and safety, use of fire fighting equipment and fire suppression techniques," Van Loggerenberg said.

All 31 KZN teams will be undergoing these tests. "Fire fighters must be able to

endure long hours in the fire line, this is why this training is so important." Only fire fighters with a Yellow Card who have been assessed to be fit can attend a call-out to a fire; this ensures the safety of our fire fighters, community members and the organisations we partner with."

As part of fire prevention measures the province will also be launching its community fire awareness campaigns during May to ensure that these communities are aware of the dangers of fires and what to do in order to prevent fires.



## KZN Volunteers ready to help reduce fires

In an effort to reduce the number of fire disasters in the upcoming fire season, Working on Fire in KwaZulu-Natal conducted a Two Day Workshop community members at the Dondotha Community in the Zululand Region.

Working on Fire in partnership with the Uthungulu Disaster District are now doing refresher workshops and post assessment to Umfolozi and Ntambanana Local

Municipalities. Community Fire Awareness Officer, Makhosi Dladla, said: "We started with the Fire Safe presentations done at Nzoza and Dondotha communities in the beginning of the year."

From the two presentations, the Fire Awareness Team in the province set up dates for Fire Safe Refresher Workshops with the community disaster management volunteers they trained last year. "We

agreed that it will be a good idea so that the volunteers will have enough time to prepare for fire season", said Makhosi.

The disaster management volunteers will be working closely with the Umfolozi Fire & Rescue, Kwa Mbonambi WoF Team, Uthungulu Disaster Management and other available stakeholders in preparations for fire season.

