



WoFIRE NEWS

June 2012

World Environment Day Celebration in Free State.

On 5 June 2012, the Minister of Environmental Affairs launched World Environment Day, which was held in the



Mangaung Outdoor Sport Centre, Bloemfontein (Free State). The theme this year was "Green Economy: Does it include you?". Working on Fire took part with a bright eye-catching stand, displaying information about the programme. This was the first stand where the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa, stopped over at to get information and posed for a photo with a helmet and fire beater! She was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Mangaung Metro, Mr. Thabo Manyoni, MEC of DETEA in Free State, MEC Mamiki Qabathe, HOD in the office of the Minister, Dr. Guy Preston and Deputy Mayor of Mangaung, Mr. Mxolisi Siyonzana and other dignitaries from Government.

The Bultfontein, Warden, Senekal and Bethlehem WoF participated in the days celebrations with the rest of the Environmental Programmes and other DEA dignitaries. These teams played a very pivotal role in the event and made an excellent guard of honour when the Minister, accompanied by Trevor Abrahams, Roelof Geysler, MEC Qabathe and the Executive Mayor Manyoni, entered into the main venue.

When the Minister took the podium, she had the following to say: "I always welcome any opportunity to talk about the conservation of our beautiful life-sustaining environment and share the many ways this can be achieved. I am humbled to be back again in the Free State where we also celebrated this day, World Environment Day, last year at the Golden Gate".



She went on to talk about the work that WoF is doing with the government funding: "The Working on Fire Programme recruits people from disadvantaged backgrounds and offers work opportunities to 4 800 fire fighters in 107 bases around South Africa in 2011/12 alone. Fire fighters are trained and fight over 2 000 wildfires across the country each year, all of which pose risks to life, property and the environment. Furthermore, we have continued to implement our Environmental Protection and Infrastructure Programmes premised on key sub-programmes. "

The fire fighters were listening attentively to the speeches and it brought smiles to their faces to hear the Minister so proudly mentioning their good work in her address.

By: Bongani Tshabalala—(MCLO—Free State)

SCFPA "Goudveld Hotshots"

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce the Goudveld "GoldenHotshots" to you.

The Goudveld base was established on 19 May 2010. A lot has happened since the establishment of the base and great successes has been achieved. We are still growing from strength to strength.

We are a wage incentive team allocated to the Southern Cape Fire Protection Association. On a daily basis we are actively involved with Integrated Fire Management within the SCFPA's area of responsibility by preparing and maintaining fire brakes, fuel load reduction, prescribed burning and fighting wild fires.

We had a lot of challenges but because of our passion for the work we overcame most of our challenges.

During the last Provincial Training Camp (2011) we achieved 2nd place and are very proud of this achievement. Be aware! We are on the way to take 1st place at the next one.

Goudveld base consists of two teams which consist of 44 Fire Fighters.

The Goudveld base is situated very close to the base were WOF Helicopter "Echo" is stationed. Therefore it was decided that the "Goudveld Golden Hotshots" must receive "Heli Teck" training in order to improve the response time to fires and to get the fire fighters to "hotspots" as quick as possible. From 20 May 2012 to 22 May 2012 30 "Goudveld Fire Fighters" received "Heli Teck" training and currently have one HSL and three acting HSL (Heli Safety Leader) complementing the team. Our fire fighters were very excited as they could do their practical with the real "McCoy" (Helicopter "Echo"). Special thanks must go to Mr Carel van der Merwe for the special effort he has made to come to the Goudveld base and instructing the 30 fire fighters. He is very passionate about his work and his actions and effort made a positive impact on the fire fighters who received the training.

We at Goudveld Base are committed toward our work.

We also just want make use of this opportunity to thank WOF and the SCFFPA for giving us the opportunity to be part of the WOF programme and will ensure that we keep up the standards and be good fire fighters.

Japie Hendrikz — Base manager Goudveld.



Mr Carel van der Merwe giving instruction



"Team members busy with a Chopper drill run



WOF Pilot Embroidery Project



On 29 May 2012, the Newlands and False Bay fire fighters started embroidery lessons at the Newlands Advocacy office. This is the first step in a new skills development project for the WoF fire fighters. WoF has bought 4 machines which the fire fighters will use to embroider WoF branding onto the fire fighter's trousers.



This is a pilot project in the Western Cape, and will soon be rolled out to other provinces. This is not only a great opportunity for the beneficiaries to learn a new skill, but will also provide a sustainable way for WoF to brand PPE in the future.

By: **Christalene De Kella (MCLO - WC)**

Bredasdorp Team

Bredasdorp Wage Incentive asook Overberg Brandweer het 'n rugby span by mekaar gekry om elke woensdag of vrydag aand deel te neem aan 'n ruby wedstryd . Die span grootte bestaan uit 5 ODM lede asook 13 WoF lede .

Verskillende organisasies neem deel aan die sosiale geleentheid naamlik " Cape Agulhas Municipality , Overberg Agri , Bredasdorp SAPS and Bredasdorp Air Force " . Op 10 Mei 2012 het die span teen Overberg Agri gespeel waarvan hulle die wedstryd 20-15 gewen het

Gister aand "23 Mei 2012 " het die span teen Bredasdorp SAPS gespeel maar ,het die wedstryd verloor (12-17). Ek moet sê dit was 'n harde spel , maar dire span het tot en met die einde deur gedruk !!!!!!!!!



Alle sterkte vir die res van die seisoen.

By : **Emile Matthysen—(Bredasdorp Base manager)**

Celebrating end of fire season at the aquarium...



During the end of May the Piketberg team, an agricultural team from the West Coast, took a fantastic trip to the two oceans aquarium as a thank you and well done to round off the completion of the fire season.

There was much excitement and nerves from the team, as some had never visited Cape Town at all. The team were greeted by a snack box each before entering the aquarium.

First up was the Nemo tank where the girls and guys had the chance to pop up underneath a tank and look at their friends from the outside.... whilst hundred of tiny clownfish (Nemo's) swam around above their heads.

Some of the team made a beeline for the shark tank.... whilst some preferred to take a beach stroll around the building, gazing at each and every animal and exhibit at their own pace.

A number of the fire fighters were initially nervous of the huge spider crabs and raced off to seek another less scary exhibit!

At the end of the morning, team members assembled in front of the famed predator Tank to welcome certificates and a word of thanks from their base manager and the FPA manager, as well as Mr Monde (AGM).

One again, to the organizers of the day and the team, it was a special day for all, and we look forward to working with you all again in future.

Leanne Mckrill - Western Cape



BETHLEHEM BASE WHALLOPED INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE TITLE



In the Eastern Free State soccer is a sport that will never be forgotten anytime soon as most of the great soccer stars has come out of this dusty town and in the very same field where team of Working on Fire is starting to play soccer to groom up young coming soccer stars. The Industrial league is taking place in the very same venue and it looks like it's an abattoir for Wof soccer team as most of the league teams have been slaughtered and 16 teams were participating in this championship to cut the long story short they have took a league title which it has been a long journey for them to pick up that trophy and be called champions other clubs who were involved was to mention but a few was Bethlehem Frontier Casino , Super Spar , Beares furniture's soccer team as well as Afgri soccer team .

Recently final match took place at Bohlokong Stadium called (Tafoleng) when Working on fire team V/s South African Police Service team (SAPS) lock horns until Wof team passes easily by beating police 2 goals to 1 goal and they went away with a Trophy and a prize of R1000.00 with 55 points draw 1 lost four matches and they won 17 matches in all whilst SAPS came second with a prize of R500.00 and a trophy in the 3rd position came Afgri with R250.00. According to match officials Wof team went away with many keys to unlock to others when they have their driver Jacob Tsupani went away with a title of top goal scorer of 48 goals of the league and also being (Wof) nominated with the best team of the Industrial league this season.

BY: BONGANI TSHABALALA - (MCLO Free States)

New Recruits- Uniondale Base Day 1 till now!!!!!!

For us as new recruits it is an honor to be part of the Working on Fire Team.

Our recruitment day was a big challenge for us; each one of us faced some kind of challenge, whether it was physically or mentally, for most of us running the 2,4 km was difficult and tiring, but the greatest feeling is when you reach the finish line. The fitness test following the run was also challenging, for some more then others, especially the push-ups.

After our fitness tests we were very proud of ourselves for having completed all the tests and were waiting on our special surprise from the Uniondale Base Team. To our "surprise" we had to each finish drinking a 2liter bottle of water, not one of us could keep that water inside for long, That was also surprisingly difficult, to drink so much water, Then we awaited the interviews.

We were each interviewed individually, for some of us it was our first interview and was one more challenge to face but after all those challenges we can only get better.

We believe that we can only go forward from here on, it is an honor to work in a team, we learn something new about ourselves and others everyday,

One is never too good to be better.

Uniondale Team - Western Cape

FLAMES WERE BLAZING IN EASTERN FREE STATE

After a very massive & tough training & survival camp in Bloemfontein two teams of Working on Fire in the Eastern Free State Clarens & the overall winner of Survival camp Senekal team went on Fire breaks on the last week of May. Even-though Free State usually expects dry season every year but this season it's going to be different as Most of the teams were ready to fight fires day in and day out. According to the base Manager of Clarens team Mr Rodney Wyn-wright says he did this fire breaks to avoid more fire this season and more suburbs' here in Clarens are surrounded by long grass and we don't need to be disturbed by this grass when fire season is now in our hands in the mountains not see having hiccups about fires in the area.



Mr. Wynwright was accompanied by Mr. Dave from FPA and the whole team of Clarens Fire Fighters and the team was so eager to do fire breaks this season. Just before the end of May month Mr. Jan De Villiers organise a fire break which included the ER24 , Traffic Department, EMS & Working on fire on the road of R70 between Senekal and Winburg, where the fire breaks took 400 meters long with a wind speed of 7,6 and the temperature of 12.4 degrees Celsius. The Briefing started at the base of Working on fire base in Senekal. Everything went well under the watch full eye of Mr. De-Villiers & Regional Manager of the Eastern Free State Mr Steven Mokoena .The Fire Fighters were very excited to be in the fire line of fire breaks and Mr. De Villiers said that even-though this team is the best in FS & NC but we have to keep them on top of their game before every fire season in other words this is the warm up of fire season for in case if the will be any fire break out any time soon from now and I'm so happy to see even the junior management being engage in this fire breaks because sometimes we can't get hold of them most of the time to be with even if we want to be with them here but now is different I'm satisfied Say's De Villiers. The fire break ended round about 18: h 30 in the early evening without any complains of being tired of Fire fighters and the support of emergency workers.

BY: BONGANI TSHABALALA - (MCLC Free States)

Fire Awareness Event of Spooky Hotshots Uniondale Base

On Friday the 4th of May we (Uniondale Base Spooky Hot Shots) held our annual fire awareness event at the Uniondale Community hall. The event was divided in two sections the first part was about fire awareness and the second part consisted of a modeling show for entertainment.

Fire awareness were made in the form of two dramas and speeches. The two dramas were performed by Uniondale Base and Witfontein Base,each base with a different drama. The dramas spoke about house fires and veld and forest fires, also the dangers of candlelight in houses. Mr. Wayne Young, Senior of our local fire brigade delivered a speech on fire awareness.

The modeling show was the entertainment of the evening where the Golden Oldies of our community also took part on the runway, but the Spooky Hot Shots crew was the main performers seeing that the modeling show was not only for entertainment but to raise funds for winter tracksuits for the Spooky Hot Shots crew.

Mr. Trevor Abrahams was one of the VIP that we invited to join our event. He did give away prizes and lucky draws that wof Sponsored us. We thank him for coming so far to join us as a local suburb. Thank you very much.

Christalene De Kella - (MCLC Southern Cape)

WORKING ON FIRE

WOF fire fighters I am writing this letter because I want to share with you what WOF has done to my life, WOF you gave me a daily bread and I had nothing but now I can see where I'm going. Now as I'm a fire fighter, I can feel and I can touch my future. WOF you've done very well in my life. I started this year, but I can see some changes in my life.

WOF you are friendly and kind, you gave me different skills, you taught me to save lives while fighting fires. Now I feel exhilarated by the great job you done for me. WOF you don't discriminate, disrespect but you gave us all skills and knowledge to face life in difficult situations. WOF YOU ARE THE BITE OF SUCCESS, because I have succeeded to achieve some of my goals. Rise and shine WORKING ON FIRE.

BY: Xolani Alfios Msimango - Ingogo Base (Amajuba Hotshot)

WOF FIRE FIGHTERS

We are yellow
We are blue
We fight fires
We protect our families and Communities
Shine fire fighters
We are green
We are physical fit
We are live savers
Shine fire fighters shine
We are strong
We protect our prosperity
We are here to save lives
We are here to use our skills
Thank you WOF
BY: SINDI THWALA (INGOGO BASE)

MY WONDERFUL TEAM

I am very blessed, grateful and enjoy working with my team, Amajuba Hot Shot. We do have our ups and downs as human beings but we have learnt that in life you have to forgive and move on so that we can work well, be good and be a wonderful team that we can be. My life has really changed with Working on fire, because of the people I have met in my base and we are working very well with our crew leaders.

BY: NTUTHUKO SAMBULO NTOMBELA (AMAJUBA HOTSHOT- INGOGO TEAM)

Fire season is here

Fire season is around the corner, let us work hard this year fire fighters. Fire season is here already let us go out to fight fires safely and come back safely. Don't be afraid to ask if you not sure, or to say something if you see something wrong or if you witness unsafe act or something unsafe to everyone near the fire line.

While fighting fires crew leaders are there to guide you, help you and to keep you safe all the time. Guys first fire order says" Fight fire aggressively, but provide for safety first" Please guys each and every fire you attack remember this fire order.

We all wish for safe fire season

BY: T.D Ndlovu (SHE-REP), Z.D NGWENYA & S.J Thusi (Normandien Base)

KZN Safety & Survival Training Camp

We were all holding our breath for training camp since it was around the corner, when we talk about training camp other people think of boyfriends and girlfriends of which is totally wrong. When you are there we have to excel, to show other teams what you've made of and to make your team proud and be a good example when it's comes to the team work or unity. Don't do something that you will re grate something that you won't like your parent found out about. Thank you so much my team mates you were the best.

BY: D.Z Ngwenya, T.D. Ndlovu, S.J.Thusi - One hope Hot Shot (NORMANDIEN BASE)

LIFE IS MEANT TO BE SHARED

God intends for us to experience life together. The bible calls this share experience fellowship. Today, however, the word has lost most of its biblical meaning. "Fellowship" now usually refers to casual conversation, socializing, food and fun. The question is" Where do you do fellowship" where do you attend church? real fellowship is so much more than just showing up at services, It is experiencing life together this including unselfish, loving, honest, sharing, practical service, sacrificial giving, sympathetic comforting and all good things, so please good people let us experience life together. How wonderful it is, how pleasant for God's people to live together in harmony!

BY: S.T. THUSI, D.Z. NGWENYA AND T.D. NDLOVU- ONE HOPE HOTSHOT (NORMANDIEN BASE)

Fire safety & survival training camp Mpumalnga 2012 Ermelo 420 fire fighters and 18 teams

Teams arrivals

It is always a nice feeling every time you see teams arriving singing and motivated at the same time, because that's when you know that these guys are ready and looking forward for the camp and you can see that mentally and physical nothing can stop them from having fun at the camp and do their best.



Inspection



This is where the real training starts because without proper gear you cannot go to a fire line and without proper first aid kit you cannot perform your duties as a first aider. Training academy assistant manager Mr. Alfred Boer and his team was there to make sure that all teams are practicing up to the WOF standard and they have all the necessary equipment and PPE that they have been trained for

Planning

Planning is all about kick starting the event by making sure everything is in place and everyone in the IC knows what to do, when to do it, and how to it, and funny enough it is not only the IC team that needs to know the planning only, but the entire division supervisors needs to know, so that they can be able to brief their teams in making sure that their teams are also aware of what the



IC team is expecting from them.

Choir Competition



Well to be honest if there is only one thing that can frustrate fire fighters, then take singing away from them then you will see what happens. This is what keeps their moral going this is what keeps them strong and making sure that they still keep their fate as you will find them singing during fire lines and on their way to fight fires.

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It was a great day to see some real fitness, fun, team work, support, and moral during the sports day. Again this year records were broken as Joseph Mashilo from Sterkspruit did 155 push ups and Phumlile from Water Vaal Boven did 184 push ups.

Male sit ups Thabo Hlophe again from Water Vaal Boven manage to rich 200 sit ups and Maria Puleng Mofokeng from Balfour did 100 sit ups.

See Pictures below



Day3:

Work shops, Training academy, HR workshop, Advocacy workshop, Social development work, Training academy

Training academy did a marvelous job by making sure that they run a workshops with the teams. Their workshops were about the fire behavior, fire orders, 18 watch out points as well as the team assessment.

HR workshop



Also did a workshop on her role explain how the HR department operates who should report what, how, to whom and what are the important things to look at when you are on duty.

Health & safety workshop

Nancy has gone an extra mile in addressing challenges that might affect fire fighters as well as the programme should procedures not being followed accordingly. She also explained the importance of reporting IOD's on time as a major fact and something that people should not ignore as it might back fire big time.

She also emphasized the fact that no fire fighters will exercise any duties that they have not being trained for and all those who do not have certificate on particular items to also not act on certain positions up until they are well recognized for those relevant positions.

Advocacy workshop

The advocacy department has seen the importance of doing fire awareness and planning workshop with the teams whereby we explain how to use the advocacy resources and how to make to ordinary people understand the message you trying to convey to them. We also encouraged the fire fighters to learn to find out more about the age group they are going to see, so that they can plan prior and know what resources they are going to hand out and whose going to do what, and also most important to know which topics they are going to present.

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Social development workshop

Our Social Development Officer Mrs. Phumeza Sihlali did an exceptional job in addressing the fire fighters about the challenges they are facing whether will be at home or work related issues. The nice thing about her it was that every time she was talking to them (fire fighters) you could see they understand her, and you could feel that they are being touched and healed inside at the same time and that was the nice part. The relationship between her and them was beautiful and the respect they have shown as well.



Division Jog in Town

This is where our name and brand comes into play when we do our division jog in town. Through proper organizing and planning we manage to do our division jog in town without obstructing any traffic due to traffic officials being part of our jog.

People were screaming and whistling at the fire fighters, motorist taking pictures and making sure that they supported the team spirit the fire fighters were displaying. This was all about promoting the image of WOF in making sure that ordinary people get the necessary information they need about working on fire and what we do.

Route March

This is where the strength, fitness, team work, and the crew leader's role gets into test. These guys did a route march of about 10 km from their drop off point plus another 18 km where they were doing fire breaks. These guys will do all these activities without living any other crew members behind and they will make sure that they walk together and come back together as a team, and the crew leader will then be accountable for his crew. He has to make sure that all of his crew members have all the things they need to survive like water and a first aid kit to be able to help those in need.



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The moment everyone was waiting for. Passing out parade!



It was more off dreams come true for new crew members and new teams which never attended a training camp before, whereby everyone was gathering around to see them during their passing out parade including the mayor of Msukaligwa Municipality.

Fire fighters were happy to hear from the mayor's mouth telling them how impressed he was with the programme and the difference it makes in our communities and to the fire fighters. He also emphasized that this day is special today because of you fire fighters if it was not because for you this event would have not have taken place.

Mr. Wilson welcomed all guests who came to witness the passing out parade and thanked everyone for taking their time to make the event a success. He also thanked the fire fighters for their hard work, the IC team, stake holders, sponsors, base partners and the whole working on management for making the event a success.



Bongani Nhlathathi a grounds operation manager and former fire fighter also got a chance to motivate the fire fighters and encouraging them not to give up and to keep their heads up at all time. He told them that he would love to see one them taking over his position one day. He emphasized the fact that there are no short cuts in life and if you want to be on top, hard work, discipline, and dedication will be their key to success.

Well it all has an ending and this was a happy ending whereby the best team and the people who did their best in various items got a chance to harvest what they have planted. Piet Retief was the team that did well this year and took the 1st price, Welgeboom 2nd and Belfast in 3rd position.



General information

We would like to send special thanks to our stake holders, partners, Msukaligwa FPA, Msukaligwa mayor, Msukaligwa Municipality and fire brigade, traffic department, sponsors, Coca-Cola, Lets advertising, base partners for transporting some of our teams and the support they have shown in our camp, as well as everyone who made this event a success.

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Nkomazi game reserve unfortunately on my arrival your vehicles were already gone but we were told that it was so beautiful they way you were caring for our fire fighters; I will make it a point that I get your pictures next time.

Special thanks will again go to our dedicated safe drivers that always make sure that they put the lives of our fire fighters first, in making sure that they always arrive at their destinations safe at all times.

By: Ali Milanzi—Media & community liaison officer (Mpumalanga province)

Team is our first priority we thank you WOF.

You have taught us so much. To all fire fighters we say don't let your body be controlled by your mind. And don't give up easily; hope you will make it in this field. You brought hopes into our lives you brought bread on the table. You bring opportunity to us you are always there for us. When we are lost, you guide us .when we are out of line you put us back on track. You always teach us discipline which is the key to success. WOF you are special to us. I want to thank working on fire for promoting me into being type 2 Crew-Leader as assistant crew leader ,and being a type 1 crew-leader .I work really hard and I believe that's the reason why I got promoted. I wish to thank all the Free State Provincial staff ;Mr R. Geyser , Mr W. Aswegen; Mr S. Rossouw; Miss P. Mshengu ; Mr B. Tshabalala; Mr L. Monareng ;Mr T. Moiloa; Mr S. Mokoena ; Mr O. Mofokeng ;Mr J. Mafisa Mr L Moloi; & Miss P. Kompfi Provincial Store-Persons & Mr M. Chaque Social Development.

I would like to thank WOF by giving us this opportunity. It gave us experience, power and patience. You gave us experience on educating us how to fight fires and to succeed in life and how to achieve your goals .you helped us and guide us to fulfil our dreams .you gave us power to lift up our spirits. All and all I want to say this don't give up Fire-Fighter's, work hard for your name will be called.

By: Moiloa Thabiso Aaron - Clarens Hot shot

Those who make things to happened

They are masters of the two groups and they don't just walk but they walk & talk, meaning they practice what they preach. They lead by good example. Those people don't just say something and live it just like that; they make sure they do whatever they are saying. They are prepared to take risks to achieve whatever they want in life, they are the ones who get critics from all directions from left to right. But they know hard work pays and you'll never be disappointed. And wise people keep on trying for the best even-though they fail, they never stop trying until they get what they want.

**Masiteng Juluis (SANKI) Warden
(Ezenzeleni Hotshot)**

WEIGH YOUR OPTIONS

Every single person in South Africa has a right to privacy as HIV/AIDS is not a noticeable disease, except in rare cases HIV positive people are not obligated to disclose their status for example, T.B. is a noticeable disease. Disclosing your status will reduce the stress of coping on your own. Once you have disclosed your status you can be free to talk about it as little as much as you want. Allow to get medical treatment, counselling and support in time. This will mean you are open and responsible about your status, leading to safer sexual habits in the future

BY: DICIMIN KHETHA, SANGWENI, KHANYI THUBALAKHE & SIZANI ZULU- Nkandla team

KWAZULU NATAL TRAINING CAMP 2012

This year training camp had some exciting things and we had new things like guys entering Miss WOF and Ladies entered Mr WOF the competition was very high and the judges had a hard time to select the best, this shows that we are one and that what ladies do guys can especially when it's comes to high heels, believe me it was exciting



Mlusi Nene from Eshane on the stage the smile says it all



Mr AND MISS WOF- We've got the tale

KZN Management getting ready for the route March, from left back row Hloniphile Ndlovu Acting SD Coordinator, Felix Zulu RM, Mpume Mazibuko Assist. Admin, Zanele Nxumalo Advocacy PM, Nokulunga Mthlana, Firewise Admin, Mpume Dlangisa HR,(Msindisi Poponi instructor- WOF Training Academy). Front row from Left Michelle Olivier Stock Controller- KZN, Makhosi Dladla MCLO and Julie Sukram Prov. Admin



Makhosi Dladla— (MCLO KwaZulu Natal)

2011 the year of my dreams

2011 is the year that brought changes in my life by working on fire programme. I had been struggling since 2005 after passing my matric and I had given up on life until working on fire came and rescue me. Today I am proud to say I'm a bread d winner and have managed to further my studies by the salary I am getting at WoF. I am busy doing human resource management at Centurion Academy.

Thank you working on fire for giving me this opportunity. You have bought back my life in so many ways by making me physical and mentally fit. I am taking my career to another level because of you. May God guard all management against being corrupt and bless them for what they have done for us. Thank you!

By: Asanda Bradley July [Ford Donald Base]

Thanks WoF

I'm proud to be employed by WoF because this job has opened my eyes into many things that I wasn't aware of. I am not earning much but I'm proud because I am playing a big role at home.

Thanks to my crew leader because I have improved my English because they always teach us to practise speaking English.

I love you guys Bulelani and Msebenzi. Keep up the good work.

By : Phila Mfenqe[Ford Donald]

What I have learnt whilst I was attending the breakthrough academy.

I am so glad to be able to share what I've learnt at the break through academy, it seems as if I've been born again because of the people at the break through academy, they taught me a lot. I can't begin to think of where to start, they taught me how to respect myself and my colleagues, they implemented discipline, how to manage time whilst I work; how to work as a team, to be united and to communicate with one another. And as from now, I am using these skills which I learnt at the academy. I would like to thank my lovely instructors and to say good luck to all of the crew leaders type 2 who are on probation for the following three months, including myself!

Nontemibso Godlo, type two crew leader probation, Fisantekraal

GAUTENG AND NORTH WEST SAFETY & SURVIVAL TRAINING CAMP

The heroes of Gauteng and North West made an excellent job. From the 27th of May until 2nd of June 2012, the Gauteng & North West held a Safety & Survival Training Camp at Vryburg Show Ground. 500 fire fighters attended the camp. It was a good opportunity for fire fighters to get to know each other and learn what other teams are doing. The purpose of the camp was to check if our fire fighters are physically and mentally fit. There were activities that took place namely Social Development activities. The purpose of the social development activities was to show the fire fighters that they can't only fight fire but there are many things that they can do in life and also to keep them motivated. Stakeholders from Vryburg gave us support. Dr Ruth Mompoti, District Municipality was with us the whole week at the camp and they also gave us lot of support



This is the winning team together with their stakeholders and base managers



Choir competition and Mr and Ms WOF 2012 Gauteng and North West

PASSING OUT PARADE



Mayor for Dr Ruth Mumpoti District Municipality, 500 Fire Fighters, delegates and stakeholders at the passing out parade

The hungry fire fighters are out there waiting for you FIRE and I promise you they are going fight you and kill you because the prepared to kill you. Fire fighters are there to make friends with you and make an enemy with you.

By: Lerato Mokwen, MCLO Gauteng

Eastern Cape Safety and survival Training Camp

The 19th until the 25th of May 2012 was the busiest week for the Eastern Cape Working on Fire (WoF) teams and management. It was a week of safety and survival and that is held yearly before the fire season starts to check the team preparedness and readiness for the coming fire season that starts in June and end in October. The WoF Eastern Cape team held this year's camp In Cradock spa where they were competing on fire activities i.e Pass through fire, 2, 4 km run, PT exercises, Route march, Fire Quiz, art and Craft, music and Mr and Miss WoF. The teams were all dressed in full PPE including management and sleeping in tents to which was also part of checking preparedness for themselves on what might come in fire season as they always say expect the unexpected. The seven day camp was very fruitful from managements to beneficiaries and the team did their best and showed that they are ready and prepared for the coming fire season.

The top three teams were:

3rd position-Dwesa Team

2nd Position- Langeni

1st Position -Stutterheim

Among the other activities every team was great but the best female runner in 2.4 was



Best Female:

Sibulele Nqabeni - Langeni Base



Best Male:

Sibusiso Mathya - Katberg Base



By: Buyie Ngqawani [MCLO-EC]

Eastern Cape Survival Training Camp

First of all I would like to congratulate Ugie team for a job well done, your performance guys was great. Well done!! To Dwesa team for becoming third position I salute you guys for that. Bra ken (Majaivana) I recommend you as the best crew leader in working on fire programme in the Eastern Cape. You have done it again by becoming 3rd position for a newly opened team. Well done!

By: Asanda Hlantolo [Ngcobo Team]

Motivation for fire fighters for next training camp

It my first time to attend the training camp and I really enjoyed every moment. I got a chance to see all the provincial management tea and other teams as well. I have learned a lot from each and every activity we did at the camp. All that I have learned will take it as a tool kit to help me achieve my goals. Working on Fire you are a true leader of South Africa.

By: King Memani [Ngcobo Team]

Need to be strong and finish up

How to start? To make your dreams come true you need to be honest and strong coupled with rewarding focus on what you are doing on reaching out your goals.

How to finish? Remember that people will comment on what you have accomplished and all you have done. Just leave a message a moment will come in your life. Life that will be knocked down. The question remains will you be able to get up and continue. Remember making mistakes its part of life and learning the lesson are optional.

We need to be strong good people. Impumelelo isentabeni!

By: Mr S Ntakana[Ngcobo Team]

Home of great opportunity

Sometimes in life we are faced with so many challenges.. Some we conquer but some we don't and they affect you emotionally and spiritually. Then we

start to question ourselves why me? Isn't that a million dollar question. I sometimes wonder when we have what we want why we don't ask ourselves this question. That's when you find your inner self and start to have higher dreams and goals but In life a

wise person learn from their mistakes but a wiser one learn from others mistakes. So my fellow colleagues we should realise where we are going from

where we are standing, its either we go forward or backward or standing where we are but all we need to know is we need to achieve our goals. We have

been privileged by working for WoF programme where we have so many opportunities. I for one have learned from my mistakes and I am definitely taking one step at a time. I hope and believer that one day

you will all wake up and

By: Zodwa Ulana[Stutterehim Base]

Why?

Why did I have to be in this situation?

Why life is so cruel to me and others?

Why do we have to live like this?

Why did I have to mourn like this?

Why did I have to lie?

Why do I have to be punished for someone else mistakes?

Why aren't we satisfied as human beings?

Why do we blame others for being rich?

Why are we not happy for others when they making it for themselves?

Why do we do things that are going to back fire us at some stage?

Why do we have to ask ourselves why?

Why do we say why?

The answer in all these questions is within us.

WHY?

By: Nkululeko [Ugie Flying squad]

WoF is the best programme in SA

I'm so proud of working on fire because it has done a huge difference in my life. When I joined WoF I had no skill and was scared to speak in front of people. Today I am leader and can proudly say I can do it. I have gained self-confidence and I am a proudly South African veld and forest fire fighter because of working on fire. WoF is doing so much to the youth by employing the youth yearly I the programme, giving them skills and promotions. I give a round of applause to working on fire. Keep up the good work.

By: N Mbovane[Ugie Base]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

If your articles appeared in this issue, please ensure you keep a copy on file for audit purposes.

We look forward to hearing from you and trust you enjoy reading the newsletter.

To ensure all entries are captured and published, all crews and managers are requested to submit their contributions to the Media & Community Liaison Officer in their area or alternatively, fax to 086 514 1484