



MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: Immediate

Municipality acquires brand new Jaws of Life

Knysna Municipality has acquired a brand new heavy duty Rescue and Extrication set worth R347 000. The Knysna Fire Department is the first Fire Service in South Africa to acquire this highly advanced technology. The set comprises a Spreader (Jaws of Life), Cutter and Hydraulic Ram

Community Services Chairperson, Councillor Irene Grootboom said, "The old Jaws of Life set has been in use for 20 years and was not functioning adequately and repairs would have cost up to R180 000, with only three months guarantee. Over the years technology in rescue and extrication has changed drastically and Council wants to keep up to ensure service delivery is enhanced. This new technology has the ability to perform any type of rescue ranging from extrication from light motor vehicles to heavy trucks, busses and trains."

"Our Chief Fire Officer Clinton Manuel, conducted extensive research prior to deciding as to which equipment would be best suitable. He indicated that the tools are battery powered, making the rescuer free from power units and hydraulic hoses. All the tools can be used independently as it does not rely on the same power unit, thus if one fails the others continue working and as a result there is no interference in the rescue work. He added that power units and hoses limit where rescue tools can be used and connecting hydraulic hoses in the dark can become tricky and result in delays."

"Mr. Manuel further explained that this newly acquired technology will ensure better performance with rescuers as it is more user-friendly and works at a higher speed compared to the previous set. "

"We all know that the Fire Department team is made up of dedicated staff who risks their lives in order to save others. With these tools their service to our communities will only get better and be of highest standard. With the strides that Council is making in ensuring good quality services to its people is true testimony that we are really building a town where nature and people prosper", Ms. Grootboom concluded.

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Knysna Municipality Communications Department

P O Box 21. Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa

Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6471 (direct)

Fax +27 (0)86 215 4818 e-mail communications@knysna.gov.za

