

# IFFD commemorated in Mopani District




On Friday, 3 May 2019, the Tzaneen and Modjadjiskloof Fire Stations celebrated International Fire Fighters' Day (IFFD) at the Tzaneen Fire Station along with other first responders, including the Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Working on Fire (WoF), Traffic, South African Police Service (SAPS), ER24, TEMS 911 EMS and the Letaba Fire Protection Association. To kick the event off, a parade was held through town to showcase the capabilities of local emergency services. On arrival at the Tzaneen Fire Station, first responders and guests were welcomed by the senior manager of Community Services of the Mopani District Municipality, David Shitlhangu. Following the reading of the Fire Fighter's Prayer by assistant Chief Fire Officer Vincent van der Westhuizen,

Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Community Services, Cllr A Sono, provided the keynote address.

She explained the origin of International Fire Fighters' Day to the audience and provided words of encouragement for the emergency services. The keynote address was followed by squad drills by Working on Fire Teams, a fire awareness talk, a firehose drill, a rescue drill and the fire-fighters fitness competition.

Before the drills got underway Tzaneen Fire Station divisional officer, Beryl Monakisi, used the opportunity to raise awareness about fire with school children from a local school. Her ability to engage with this young audience saw a quick and enthusiastic response from the children as they learnt critical basic

issues related to fire and relevant emergency numbers. Much to their delight, each child was presented with a certificate from Mopani Fire and Rescue Services at the end of the awareness session. Following this, the Modjadjiskloof Fire Station, supported by the Emergency Medical Services, ER24 and TEMS private ambulance service undertook a rescue simulation, while the Tzaneen Fire Station provided a firehose drill.

The fire fighter fitness competition involved a gruelling series of exercises which tested participants to the full. Letaba Fire Protection Association fire manager, Rouan Snyman, facilitated the competition, assisting in getting each participant started and tracking their respective times. Trophies and medals were awarded to the winners by Cllr Sono and Cllr Mathedemusa. 



## Winners

### Men

**First place:**

Junior fire fighter LE Kgapanne

**Second place:**

Junior fire fighter M Rikhotso

**Third place:**

Junior fire fighter MJ Molapisane

**Fourth place:**

Fire fighter CK Ngoepe

### Women

**First place:**

Fire fighter MA Mashile

**Second place:**

Fire fighter SR Phooko

**Third place:**

Junior fire fighter NJ Mabuza

**Fourth place:**

Divisional officer MB Monakisi