



BLAZING FIRE LIT UP THE NIGHT SKY



Firefighters battled the blaze, bringing the fire under control.

Rustenburg – People staying close to a property where a fire broke out on Tuesday night 16 June, took to social media, reporting that they heard what sounded like gun shots or crackers. Shortly after about 23h30, a concerned neighbour who noticed the smoke, sounded the alarm. At that time, a dark cloud of smoke was billowing from the property on the corner of Enkeldoring and Bakhout Avenue in Protea Park, causing poor visibility down the street. No one was injured in the fire which destroyed the garage, flat, lapa and part of the main house on the property.

Apparently Annerie, who stays in a flat on the same property as her parents, phoned them when the power tripped. The Jordt-couple and their daughter were able to flee their homes, unharmed. Neighbours used garden hoses to stop the fire from spreading to an adjacent property. Although the roof and wall of the garage of the adjacent property was damaged by the intense heat, their

desperate battle paid off. They were relieved when the fire brigade finally showed up.

At 10 minutes to twelve, a family member of one of the neighbours who rushed over to help, spotted a fire engine standing on the corner of Mispel Avenue and Kruger Street, not knowing where to go. He signalled them to follow him to the scene of the fire.

Firefighters battled the blaze for the next hour and a half, eventually bringing it under control at half past one on Wednesday morning. A neighbour told the *Platinum Weekly*: "I was still trying to figure out where the popping noises were coming from when we received a call from one of our neighbours. We were met by an orange glow when we went outside. I could see the flames towering up behind our garage, sending up sparks and cinders. It was terrifying." The cause of the fire, which apparently started in the garage, spreading to the flat and then to the lapa and main house on the property, is yet to be determined.



Community members assisted in signalling the Fire Department to follow them to the scene of the fire.

AR & H Springs

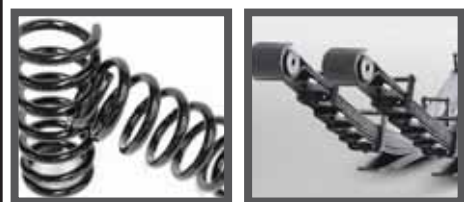
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R510 CLAIMS FOUR LIVES

Rustenburg – "Police are investigating a case of culpable homicide following a vehicle accident in which four people lost their lives," said police spokesperson Elsabe Augoustides.

The four died after a white Toyota Corolla and a blue Toyota Conquest crashed head-on along the R510 road between Tsitsing and Serutube (near Rustenburg) on Saturday 13 June. Paramedics from E24 and personnel from local government assisted on scene.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the families and friends of the four people who lost their lives.



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SEWER GAS KILLS FOUR MEN

Koster – Four men, Cornelius Cloete (62), Lennox Thobeni (56), Mpho Melatho (25) and Johannes Pretorius (74) sadly lost their lives on Friday 5 June while attempting to unblock a Kgetlengrivier municipal sewer line.

When they failed to unblock the drain on the property, they proceeded to go to a nearby manhole and started climbing down the stairs. It is extremely dangerous to climb down a sewer manhole without the necessary breathing equipment and protective gear. Hydrogen sulfide is the primary gas in sewer gas. At more than 1,000 per million, hydrogen sulphide can kill in a single breath. There is also methane, ammonia, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide in sewers.

Sadly the four men lost consciousness shortly after they climbed down the stairs. Emergency services were contacted immediately.

According to police spokesperson Colonel Adèle Myburgh, Cloete and Thobeni where declared dead on scene while Melatho

and Pretorius passed away in the hospital. Investigations are underway.

"We confirm that we are working with the South African Police Service to have the matter investigated. Municipal infrastructure was tampered with," said municipal manager Joseph Mogale.

The municipality will assist the families with funeral arrangements, counselling services and will also mobilise other departments of the state and the local business community to lend a helping hand.

We extend our sincerest condolences to the friends and families of these four men.



Concern over spike in burglary and muggings

Rustenburg – The Community Policing Forum (CPF) operating in Tlhabane and Rustenburg North is urging residents to be vigilant in the wake of many housebreaking and mugging incidents that have been reported over the past few weeks.

Tlhabane CPF chairperson Israel Maimane informed *Platinum Weekly* that an attempt by criminals to break into a house located in Reebok Street during the early hours of Monday 15 June, is one of the many incidents that were reported to his team.

"The criminals wanted to force the windows open using a screwdriver. They fled when the owners woke up," Maimane said. "Unfortunately, many other homeowners have lost their valuables to criminals who successfully break-in. A number of the other crimes we are being alerted to relate to the theft of car tyres at residential premises."

He also warned pedestrians travelling in and out of the central business district (CBD) to avoid dimly lit areas as these can provide convenient hideouts for criminals. "There are

many people who are being mugged early in the morning while walking from Rustenburg North to the CBD or as they are going home in the evening. The area around the footbridge that is regularly used by those walking from Rustenburg North and going into the taxi rank can be very dangerous. I advise pedestrians to use alternative routes when travelling into town to avoid being mugged," Maimane cautioned.

For more information, contact Israel Maimane on 083 692 3038.



Criminals unsuccessfully tried to break in a house using a screwdriver.

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