



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

CORPORATE COMMUNICATION SERVICES

Natalia, 330 Longmarket Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201
Private Bag X9051, Pietermaritzburg, 3200
Tel.: 033 395 2220, Fax.: 033 3420429
thusim@dohho.kzntl.gov.za

TO: ALL MEDIA

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EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALPHA OPERATIONS: EASTER SEASON

As we approach Easter holidays many will be embarking on holidays to different parts of the country. The Province of KwaZulu-Natal sees an influx of tourists and visitors during this time of the year. To ensure rapid and effective medical emergency response to all incidents the department has deployed 40 more ambulances. These ambulances will be stationed at strategic points in all the major roads within the province and its immediate borders.

This is part of Alpha Operations plan done by the Department of Health and the Emergency Medical Rescue Service (EMRS). The aim of the Alpha Operations is to increase the current number of Ambulances on major routes by 40 and ensure that their daily operation is maintained by 100%.

All National, Provincial and District routes (**see list**) will be totally covered by EMRS and qualified Advanced Life Support Paramedics, Medical Rescue personnel and Emergency Care Practitioners.

Priority areas include the N3 from Durban to Van Reenen, the N2 from Durban to Port Edward, Durban to Mtubatuba, Mtubatuba to Mkuze, Mkuze to Pongola, Ladysmith to Majuba Pass, Port Shepstone to Matatiele, Pietermaritzburg to Umzimkulu, Bulwer to Matatiele, Ixopo to Umzinto.



After the 2004 Alpha Operations, the department also noticed an increase in the number of casualties arising from assault cases. The Department would like to urge the community to act responsibly during the Easter season by:

- Limit alcohol abuse, responsible alcohol consumption.
- Stop acts of violence.
- Don't drink and drive.
- Pedestrians should wear bright clothes at night and walk on the side of the road.

Drivers should abide by the speed limits and all traffic legislation.

The operation will run until 04 April 2005.

ENDS

For more information please contact Ms Lindiwe Khuzwayo on 083 393 9943 or Desmond Motha on 083 295 3901



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LIST OF DISTRICTS COVERED BY EMRS

Ugu

- N2 – Park Reynie
- N2 – Hibberdene
- N2 – Harding
- N2 – Port Edward
- N2 – Murchison

Umgungundlovu

- N3 – New England RD
- N3 - Tweedie
- N3 - Hilton
- N3 – South Coast Interchange

UThukela

- N3 – Van Reenen (help center)
- N3 – Shell Ultra City
- N3 – Hidcote

Umzinyathi

- R33 – Greytown
- R33 – Tukela Ferry
- R68 – Nquthu
- R614 – Dundee

Amajuba

- N11 – Sunset Rest (Ladysmith)
- N11 Krafti
- R34 – Utrecht

Zululand

- R33 – Melmoth
- R34 – Nongoma /Vryheid
- R66 – King Dinizulu

Umkhayakude (Jozini)

- N2 – Mtubatuba /St Lucia



- N2 – Hluhluwe

Uthungulu (empangeni)

- N2 – Dokodweni
- R43/R66 – Nkalweni
- N2/R34 – Richards Bay

Ilembe (Stanger)

- N2 – Zikwazi
- N2 – Umvoti

Sisonke

- N2/R56 – Kokstad
- R56 – Ixopo
- R612 – Highflats
- R613 – Bulwer

EThekwini

- N2 – Spaghetti Junction
- N2 – Umhlanga Rocks Interchange
- N3 – Marianhill
- N3 – Cato Ridge
- N2 – Kingsburgh