
TO: ALL MEDIA
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EMBARGO: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

16 SENIOR CITIZENS DIE, 5 SURVIVE A FIRE IN NKANDLA

The MEC and the Department of Health learnt with shock the news of a fire that devastated an Old Age Home in Nkandla's (Nkonisa area) early this evening.

Our Emergency Medical and Rescue Services (EMRS), the Mortuary Services working together with the Fire Department and the SAPS were immediately dispatched to the scene to deal with the fatalities and the injured. At this stage, 15 people are confirmed dead with a further 5 receiving medical attention at the local Hospital, Nkandla Hospital. The MEC further made arrangements with our Mortuary Services to reserve a mortuary in Richards Bay where the bodies of the deceased will be transported. Post-mortems will be conducted early tomorrow morning on all the deceased.

An aircraft has been placed on stand-by in case any of the survivors require to be transferred to a higher level institution.

Once again the MEC wishes to convey her deep felt condolences to the relatives of the deceased and wishes to assure the relatives of the survivors that the Department will do everything possible to help the survivors.

Our Call Centre will be monitoring the situation closely and we encourage the relatives of the survivors to call our Toll Free number in order to find-out about their relatives. The number is **0800005133, day and night!**

ISSUED BY:

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