



HEALTH
KwaZulu-Natal

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

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THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESCUE SERVICES (EMRS) SAVES A LIFE IN THE MOUNTAINS

The Department of Health's EMRS has yet again saved a life of a hiker who was stranded in the Drankesberg Mountains on 4 April 2007 at around 16h20.

Our Operation centre received a call from a Mrs. Shaw whose son was amongst the stranded hikers at the black and tan wall of the Drankesberg Mountains. EMRS paramedics were immediately dispatched to handle the situation but due to the bad terrain the Mountain Rescue Services (15th Squadron) were requested to assist. The rescue could only be undertaken the next morning due to bad light in the afternoon and over night. A patient (21-year-old male from Cape Town) who had had fallen 10 meters, and sustained a suspected fractured foot and a severely bruised lower back, was rescued. The patient was admitted at Laverna Hospital in Bergville.

During the holiday seasons, the Department of Health amplifies its emergency medical response to meet the increased demand. Communities and individuals are encouraged to report medical emergencies through a Toll -Free Control Centre number, 10177 or 0800 005 133, and the necessary Medical Response will be initiated and dispatched to assist anywhere in the Province.

ENDS

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