

# Flames no match for them

By **ORIS MNISI**

**WORKING** on Fire spent the winter doing battle.

Although the fire season in Mpumalanga started slowly, the organisation's firefighters were ready and waiting, with 598 members at 23 bases across the province.

Their Huey helicopters with Bambi buckets and waterbombers were also sent from four bases in the province when they were needed.

Martin Bolton, general manager of Working on Fire for Mpumalanga, said between June and last month, they worked with the government's expanded public works programme to put out 238 fires across the province.

Bolton said this was a big increase from the 170 fires recorded for the same period last year.

He said the organisation put out fires using air and ground support.

He urged people to be very careful not to start fires when the fire



**Working on Fire team members put out 238 fires across Mpumalanga over the winter.**

*Photo by Oris Mnisi*

danger index was high.

"Most fires are caused by humans, whether intentional or by accident," he said.

"For this reason, people can definitely help prevent fires by being more careful and by not carelessly starting fires in the open or leaving fires unattended."

He also said people should stop throwing cigarette butts out of cars and not leaving glass bottles in the open veld as they could magnify the sun's rays and start fires.