

Fire awareness: New EPWP staff trained

A total of 34 Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) staff members are now deployed at fire stations all over the City after they received their certificates of attendance at a farewell ceremony on Friday 28 June.

The programme ran from September last year to June and the group was deployed to various fire safety areas. They attended a two-day basic fire awareness workshop at the Bellville Fire Station under the guidance of Adam Damons (firefighter) and Malcolm Leonard (paramedic).

Their primary function was to clean, mark and maintain fire hydrants within the City. At the workshops, the attendees were made aware of the different types of fires, extinguishing methods, fire extinguishers and the safe use it.

At the farewell function, the guests were shown the evacuation procedures of the water and sanitation headquarters by Asia Toutie. Mercia Kleinsmith, ward councillor for Subcouncil 6 who also attended welcomed all and stressed the importance of the registration process of the job seekers database and informing them that the attendees will be employed across the City's fire and rescue services. Kleinsmith also expressed her gratitude towards the manager and support staff of her council.

Pat Jansen, manager of subcouncil 6, in-



The group of EPWP employees that received their attendance certificates.

formed the group of her personal experience relating to a fire in her house that destroyed everything and had she known the basics of fire prevention and extinguishment, things could have been different.

She encouraged the group to share their knowledge in their communities and thanked the services for actively being involved within her area of jurisdiction with awareness drives to backyard dwellers.

Marlon February from the EPWP office explained how the project was started and the benefits to all citizens who participated. He said that the EPWP is a national government initiative that provides temporary work to the unemployed, targeting people between the ages of 18 and 35 years, disabled and women, and helps provide income and reduce poverty. Adam Damons (fire and rescue) gave a background history of where the

fire brigade originated in 1845 and how the educational programmes came into place. He said their services extend its work to medical emergencies and rescues including urban search and rescue, diving, motor vehicle extrication and high angle incidents, as well as hazardous material emergencies.

There are 30 fire stations in the four districts serving a population of 4 million people and it covers an area of over 2 560 km².