

Update: Fire at FH Odendaal Hospital

The PSA was alerted of a fire that broke down at FH Odendaal Hospital in Modimolle on 4 May 2021 during which two patients sadly lost their lives. The PSA rushed to the Hospital and was able to engage with the management of the Department consisting of the DDG, District Executive Manager and the Hospital CEO. In the briefing, they confirmed what transpired and their intention to meet with stakeholders, including labour representatives on 5 May 2021 and to arrange a staff meeting.

Management confirmed that affected employees were provided with counselling, were sent home and will be monitored. Their bravery in containing the fire was acknowledged and appreciated by management. The circumstances surrounding the cause of the fire remain unknown and investigations will be conducted by experts from both the Department and the SA Police Service.

The PSA extends condolences to the families who lost loved ones and calls upon the employees to make use of employee wellness initiatives to ensure holistic recovery from this ordeal. This incident highlighted the importance of ensuring that facilities have adequate and serviced fire extinguishers and that the employees are trained on the use of such equipment. Further, the importance of proper and adequate staffing cannot be overemphasized to ensure better handling of situations. It is concerning that this is the second hospital fire within a space of three weeks.

Members will be informed of developments.

GENERAL MANAGER