

10/05/17 TMA Pg3 DCS & TM POS

# Don't be a victim, be fire wise

Awareness and precautions are essential for everyone dealing with open flames or electrical appliances

THYS MOKGWAETSE

THE winter season is upon us and Tshepong Hospital in Klerksdorp has started a campaign that seeks to minimise the risk of fire and burns.

The hospital's Burns Unit in collaboration with Dr Kenneth Kaunda district's stakeholders, including disaster and risk management, the Fire Department, district health, EMRS, social development, Sassa, traffic, police, NW Parks Board and Eskom will undertake a fire and burns outreach campaign to make communities in the district more aware, especially during this winter.

The district campaign started at Tshepong Hospital Burns Unit from Monday and will continue until Friday May 19.

The Burns Unit Area Unit Manager, Matron Makoko Phamodi, said the aim of the outreach is to prevent burns and fire-related incidents, which have proven to be disastrous for both human life and family units and the environment, particularly in children and vulnerable communities.

Matron Phamodi said it is indeed little things that normally attract curiosity as this is evidently done during engagements with the public and the patients through the Burn for Burns-Chillies initiative.

"In that way, the attending public will taste a chilli and thereafter be given water and sweets to quell the heat of the hot chillies. This is done in order to make everyone feel how it is to get burned," she said.

The public will be taught how to evacuate a burning house, the correct use of



**BE WISE:** Area Manager of the Burns Unit, Matron Makoko Phamodi with her teaching materials.

a paraffin stove, electrical devices and so on. Brochures and posters will also be distributed.

Speaking to one of the victims, Suzan Stock who is currently admitted at Tshepong Burns Unit he said: "When I was admitted I was so hopeless, but after a warm welcome and immediate treatment, I realised that there are still good people to whom we can entrust our lives.

"I am now recuperating well from the burns I sustained and I will soon be out of the hospital to join my family again."

Hopeful Stock also gave advice to the community out there: "Please take serious precautionary measures when working with fire, particularly an open flame because you never know what will happen next. Do not be a victim of fire.

"Move the electric appliance away from

children, do not put boiling water on the tip of the table or tablecloths where a child can reach. After the lessons I found here, I now know how to use candles safely. Not to sleep with candles burning at night, for instance."

Yesterday, the campaign was at Delekile Khoza Clinics in Tigane and at Verda Farm, and today it is at Majara Sephapho Clinic in Kanana and at A Re Fenyeng

Primary School.

Tomorrow, and Friday, they will be in the Tlokwe areas. Next week Tuesday, May 16 and Wednesday May 17, it will be in the Ventersdorp areas.

Makwasie Hills municipalities will be the last one on Thursday May 18 and Friday May 19 it's in the Kgakala and Makwasie areas.

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