

**MINISTRY FOR COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

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**PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION:2018/2545**

**2545. Mr M Waters (DA) to ask the Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs:**

**QUESTION**

With regard to fire fighters at the fire stations at (a) Edenvale, (b) Kempton Park, (c) Tembisa, (d) OR Tambo International Airport and (e) Boksburg (i) what is the (aa) optimal and (bb) actual number of full-time fire fighters,(ii) what number of the full-time fire fighters have passed the final examinations of the SA Emergency Services Institute, including the written examination and the full set of practical evaluations and (iii) What total number of reservists does each specified fire station currently have? **NW2834E**

**REPLY:**

The information requested by the Honourable Member was provided by the National Disaster Management Centre (NDMC) from the City of Ekurhuleni (CoE) and the OR Tambo International Airport. Table 1 below outlines the relevant details:

**Optimal and actual number of firefighters per station**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of the Fire Station** | 1. **(aa) optimal** | **(bb) Actual number of full-time fire Fighters** | 1. **Number of fulltime firefighters who passed final examination of SAESI** | 1. **Practical Components completed** | 1. **(iii)Total Number of Reservists** |
| 1. Edenvale | 37 | 28 | All completed Fire Fighter 1 & 2 | Firefighting components: Hazmat Awareness & Operational | 3 |
| 1. Kempton Park | 37 | 41 | All completed Fire Fighter 1 & 2 | Firefighting components: Hazmat Awareness & Operational | 12 |
| 1. Tembisa | 37 | 36 | All completed Fire Fighter 1 & 2 | Firefighting components: Hazmat Awareness & Operational | 14 |
| 1. OR Tambo International Airport (**Firefighters are employed by the OR Tambo International Airport**) | 56 | 76 | All completed Fire Fighter 1 & 2 | Firefighting components: Hazmat Awareness & Operational | None |
| 1. Boksburg Leon Ferreira | **37** | **32** | All completed Fire Fighter 1 & 2 | Firefighting components: Hazmat Awareness & Operational | None |

1. 1. Firefighting is a profession which is one of the most stressful, physically demanding and hazardous occupation. Thus, Firefighters must master a complex mix of three core competencies being foundational knowledge, physical skill and work experience to be successful in their occupation.
   2. The nature of work carried out by firefighters requires not only adequate training when entering the profession but also continuous professional development to ensure that firefighters stay abreast with the constant technological changes in their working environment.
   3. It is important to note that training of firefighters must be benchmarked against globally accepted standards. Within the South African context, the Southern African Emergency Services Institute (SAESI) is accredited to provide occupational training for firefighters by the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) which is based in the United States of America (USA).
   4. IFSAC is a non-profit, peer-driven, self-governing system of both fire service certifying entities and higher education fire-related degree programs. IFSAC's mission is to plan and administer a high-quality, uniformly delivered accreditation system with an international scope.
   5. Thus, IFSAC courses which are provided by SAESI such as Firefighter I and II, Hazmat Awareness and Operational are utilised by fire services in South Africa to recruit entry-level firefighters. These courses are based on the American National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards and are utilised both in the USA and several other countries for the basic training of firefighters.
   6. The Local Government Sector Education and Training (LGSETA) has also developed a qualification known as the Fire and Rescue Operations, Level 4 in terms of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) based on the same NFPA Standards. Firefighters must obtain formal qualifications in order to progress in their careers within the fire services. Qualifications in Fire Technology are currently provided by the Tshwane University of Technology (TuT) and includes a National Diploma, BTECH Degree and Master’s Degree. These are the qualifications that are also utilised by fire services to recruit senior fire officers in the country.
   7. The NDMC is finalising the review of the Fire Brigade Services Act, 1987 and as part of the revised legislation and policy framework, a national fire services education and training strategy will be developed to guide the provision of training in the fire service.