

ORRU

OFF ROAD RESCUE UNIT

AFTER MUCH SPECULATION REGARDING THIS UNIT, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS UNIT IS NOW A GO!!!

I HAVE ATTENDED MANY LATE NIGHT MEETINGS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS IMPORTANT AND MUCH NEEDED UNIT IN THE EASTERN CAPE.

THE MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ATTENDED BY THE FOLLOWING, METRO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, METRO DISASTER MANAGEMENT, MOUNTAIN CLIMBING RESCUE CLUB, COASTAL WATER RESCUE, PORT ELIZABETH AMITURE RADIO SOCIETY(PARS), WESTERN CAPE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, IVOR RIMMER HEAD OF ORRU IN GAUTENG, JOHAN MARIAS HEAD OF ORRU IN WESTERN CAPE, HE IS ALSO THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE FWDCSA.

SO AS CAN BE SEEN THERE ARE SOME HIGH POWERED PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THIS INITIATIVE.

I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THAT ORRU HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CLUB AND IS A SEPARATE ORGANISATION COMPLETELY, AND WILL BE RUN AS SUCH WITH ITS OWN COMMITTEE.

MEMBERSHIP TO THIS ORGANISATION IS COMPLETELY VOLUNTARY AND IS FREE.

I NEED TO FIND OUT FROM MEMBERS OF THE FWDCSA-PE WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF SUCH A UNIT, AS I NEED TO GO BACK AND REPORT ON HOW MANY OF OUR MEMBERS ARE WILLING TO ASSIST IN THE CASE OF EMERGENCIES IN OUR AREA. OUR AREA WILL STRECH FROM PLETTENBERG BAY ON THE WESTERN AND EASTERN CAPE BORDER TO GRAAF RENIET, INCLUDING PENHOOK PASS, LOODSSBERG PASS IN THE NORTH AND AS FAR AS TIFFINDALE LESOTHO BORDER AND WILD COAST, THIS IS A MAJOR AREA TO COVER.

BASIC REQUIREMENTS ARE:

1. OFF ROAD VEHICLE IN GOOD CONDITION
2. BE ABLE DRIVE AND USE IT SKILLFULLY
3. HAVE A GPS AND BE ABLE TO USE.

4. 2 WAY RADIO (UHF AND VHF) AND CELLPHONE
5. BASIC FIRST AID KIT
6. CLOTHING FOR EXTREME COLD WEATHER(SNOW RESCUE)
7. FOOD AND DRINKS FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS
8. COME EQUIPPED FOR AT LEAST 2 DAYS

ALL MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO UNDER GO BASIC TRAINING, IN FIRST AID, SURVIVAL SKILLS, ROPE CLIMBING, BOARDING AND DISEMBARKING A HELICOPTER SAFELY. MEMBERS WILL HAVE TO BE RELATIVELY FIT AND IN GOOD HEALTH. HOWEVER OUR SERVICES WILL MAINLY BE TO TRANSPORT HIGHLY QUALIFIED RESCUERS TO SCENES IN INACCESSABLE AREA'S.

SOME RESCUES THAT OUR SERVICES WOULD HAVE HELPED IN THE PAST ARE, THE FLOODING LAST YEAR OCTOBER IN PORT ELIZABETH, HEAVY SNOW IN GRAAF RENIET AREA LAST YEAR TO HELP TRAP MOTORIST IN THE PASSES IN THE AREA, AND MOST RECENTLY A RESCUE OF A YOUNG GIRL THAT FELL DOWN A CLIFF IN THE JOUBERTINA AREA THIS YEAR, WHERE THE WESTERN CAPE RESCUERS CAME TO ASSIST WITH THERE MEDIVAC HELICOPTER. THE WESTERN CAPE HAS TWO FULLY EQUIPPED MEDICAL HELICOPTERS. IN THE EASTERN CAPE WE HAVE ONE ORYX FROM THE AIR FORCE WHICH IS NOT EQUIPPED WITH A WINCH, AND THE POLICE HELICOPTER WHICH THEY COULD NOT ANSWER ME IF IT HAD A WINCH WHEN I ASKED AT THE MEETING, THEY SAID THEY WOULD CHECK AND GET BACK TO US. WE WILL ALSO ASSIST THE NSRI FROM THE SHORE WHERE REQUIRED, HELP WHEN THEY HAVE BEACH THERE CRAFT, AND RETREIVE THE CRAFT WITH THERE TRAILERS ALONG THE COAST,ASSIST WITH COMMICATION, FROM SHIP TO SHORE AND TO THE CONTROL ROOM, REFUELLING, REFRESHMENTS AND FOOD ETC.

ALL RESCUERS WILL WEAR REFLECTIVE OVERHUALS, SAME AS THE PARAMEDICS AS WELL AS REFLECTIVE BIBS, ON THE BACK IT WILL HAVE "OFF ROAD RESCUE UNIT" IN THE FRONT YOUR CLUBS EMBLEM, ORRU EMBLEM AND SEARCH AND RESCUE EMBLEM. YOUR VEHICLE WILL BE ALLOWED TO BE FITTED WITH GREEN ROTATING BEACON LIGHTS AND SIRENS, FOR WHICH YOU WILL BE ISSUED PERMITS TO OPERATE. DUE TO GREEN LIGHTS BEING NEW IN OUR AREA ALL AUTHORITIES WILL BE INFORMED OF THE NEW UNIT AND WHAT THE GREEN LIGHTS REPRESENT.

CALL OUTS WILL WORK AS FOLLOWS.

CODE YELLOW: CONTROL ROOM WILL SEND OUT A BULK SMS TO ALL MEMBERS ON THERE LIST. MEMBERS MUST REPLY,YES AVAILABLE, OR NO NOT AVAILABLE, OR ONLY AVAILABLE IN 2 HOUR TIME.

CODE ORANGE: WITH THE REPLYs THEY RECEIVE FROM AVAILABLE MEMBERS THEY WILL PUT TEAMS TOGETHER. CONTROL ROOM WILL THEN INFORM COMMANDER ON SCENE HOW MANY VEHICLES AND PEOPLE ARE ON THERE WAY AND WHAT TIME THEY WILL BE ON

SCENE TO ASSIST (MANY OF US WORK FOR A BOSS AND CANNOT JUST JUMP INTO OUR VEHICLE AND RUN).

CODE RED: ALL WILL BE INFORMED OF ASSEMBLY POINT AND TIME. EACH TEAM MUST HAVE A TRAINED TEAM LEADER, WHO MUST REPORT TO COMMANDER ON SCENE REGARDING ASSISTANCE NEEDED.

THE COST OF THE EQUIPMENT WILL BE FOR YOUR OWN ACCOUNT UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE TRYING TO SEE WHERE WE CAN GET THE EQUIPMENT AT SPECIAL RATES OR SPONSORED. HOWEVER FUEL WILL BE PAID FOR BY THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND THE METRO. YOU WILL HAVE TO FILL YOUR VEHICLE AND ON RETURN REFILL AND HAND IN ALL SLIPS TO BE REFUNDED. THIS CAN TAKE BETWEEN 5-6 WEEKS. IF ANYBODY IS INJURED WHILE ON A RESCUE THEY WILL BE TREATED FREE OF CHARGE AT A STATE HOSPITAL IF REQUIRED.

THE UNIT CAN ALSO BE USED FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO ASSIST FIRE FIGHTERS WITH WATER, COFFEE AND FOOD IN THE CASE OF MAJOR FIRES IN THE CITY, CROWD CONTROL AND TRAFFIC CONTROL AT ACCIDENT SCENES AND SPORTING EVENTS ETC.

THE METRO WILL ALSO MAKE AVAILABLE TO US THERE SPECIALISED VEHICLES AND EQUIPPED TRAILERS, MOBILE CONTROL CENTRES, TO BE TAKEN TO SCENES, IF THEY DO NOT HAVE DRIVERS FOR THEM.

PEARS WILL SUPPLY ALL RADIO COMMUNICATIONS AT SCENES IF REQUIRED, WE WILL USE OUR UHF(SHORT RANGE) TO RELAY TO PEARLS WHO WILL THEN INTURN REPORT TO EMS RADIO CONTROL ROOM ON THE PROGRESS OF THE RESCUE. OUR VEHICLES WILL ALSO BE IN CONTACT WITH THE EMS CONTROL ROOM VIA THERE VHF FREQUENCY.

I WILL BE ATTENDING MORE MEETINGS THIS MONTH TO FINALISE WHAT IS REQUIRED FROM US. WE WILL THEN BE HAVING A MEETING WITH ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS AND PUT FORWARD THE REQUIREMENTS TO ALL AND ANSWER ANY QUESTION YOU MIGHT HAVE. I WILL LET ALL KNOW WHEN THIS MEETING WILL BE AND WHERE.

KIND REGARDS

MIKE BEZUIDENHOUT

FWDCSA REPRESENTATIVE TO ORRU EASTERN CAPE