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Date: 5/8/2025 8:28:15 AM

Subject: Swartland Municipality Begins Smoke Alarm Rollout to Protect Vulnerable Communities

Attachments: [IMG\\_8198.JPG](#)

[IMG\\_8223.JPG](#)

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Img 8198 – (right to left) Swartland Fire Chief Roysten Harris, Ward Councillor Mkhululi Ngozi and Mayoral Committee Member for Protection Services, AK Warnick, speaking to the community and explaining how the smoke alarms work.

Img 8223 – Protection Services Director Phillip Humphreys and councillor Ngozi connecting the first smoke alarm.

Issued: Immediately – 8 May 2025

Swartland Municipality

## Swartland Municipality Begins Smoke Alarm Rollout to Protect Vulnerable Communities

This week Swartland Municipality began the roll out of a smoke alarm project geared towards making communities safer and preventing fire related deaths and damage. In partnership with the Western Cape Department of Local Government's Disaster Management Centre, the initiative will distribute and install 2,685 smoke alarms in high-risk areas across the Swartland.

Funded by a R500,000 contribution from the Western Cape Government's Disaster Management unit and an additional R250,000 from Swartland Municipality, the first phases of this project focus on communities where fires spread quickly and the risk to life and property is greatest. These include informal settlements, flats, and high-density neighbourhoods.

In the event of a fire, every second counts. Smoke alarms give people those crucial seconds—time to wake up, get out, and call for help. This is especially important at night, when the danger of smoke inhalation—the leading cause of death in structure fires—is highest.

The Swartland Fire Department will do installations in llingeletu, with more areas to follow in the coming months and years. With each installation, the fire fighters on sight will also explain to residents how the smoke alarm works and how to prevent accidental trigger as well as what to do in the event of a fire. The project prioritises densely populated neighbourhoods, where fires can spread rapidly from home to home.

Each alarm sounds a loud, piercing beep that grows more intense if not acknowledged. All alarms come with long-life batteries that last up to 10 years, reducing the need for frequent replacements and ensuring long-term protection.

With ongoing support from the Western Cape Disaster Management Centre, smoke alarms will eventually be rolled out across the Swartland, focussing on high-risk areas.

END

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