

Devil's Peak blaze put out

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Jeanette Chabalala, News24

Firefighters tackling Table Mountain blaze

Cape Town - A widespread fire has been put out on Sunday morning after flaring up on Devil's peak in Cape Town, the city's fire and rescue services said.

About 15 firefighting vehicles responded to the fire at 21:30 on Saturday night, said spokesperson Liezl Moodie.

Moodie said 70 firefighters including supporting staff worked tirelessly overnight to put out the fire.

"The strong wind had a huge impact and delayed the process of actually putting it out because it obviously pushed the fire to various places," she said.

On Saturday afternoon, an extensive area of vegetation caught alight at the base of Table Mountain in Cape Town.

Moodie said eight firefighting vehicles responded to the fire at De Waal drive around 13:00 and about 28 firefighters, assisted by seasonal firefighters, had been battling the blaze.

Moodie said there were no properties in danger for both incidences. No injuries were reported."

Extreme weather keeps Western Cape firefighters on their toes

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Jenna Etheridge, News24

Cape Town - Extreme weather conditions have kept Western Cape firefighters on their feet for the past 10 days.

"Shortly after the beginning of the new year, conditions have steadily worsened. High speed winds and very dry conditions are making areas particularly vulnerable to runaway fires," said Western Cape Environmental Affairs MEC Anton Bredell.

"Firefighting crews are working under very difficult conditions, including extreme temperatures often in excess of 40 degrees Celsius."

In Cape Town alone, fire fighters were dealing with an average of 60 to 70 vegetation fires every day, said the City of Cape Town's fire and rescue service spokesperson, Theo Layne.

Fires recently raged through Ocean View, Misty Cliffs and Kommetjie. Twenty

structures at a Rasta camp informal settlement were destroyed.

Layne said there were currently no major fires in the city. The same could not be said for the rest of the province.

"On Tuesday evening, a fire line stretching 40km was raging across the mountains between Ceres and Clanwilliam. The fire is currently moving towards the Citrusdal area and we are monitoring the situation," said provincial disaster management head Colin Deiner.

"At present, the fire is still in inaccessible mountain areas. Active firefighting will take place if the fire starts moving down towards the farmlands in the area."

Another fire in the Rocklands/Witzenberg Valley had been extinguished.

Three areas of concern were the Cape Peninsula, the Cape Winelands and the West Coast, said Deiner.

Bredell thanked the firefighters for their hard work and asked the public to report fires immediately.

"When a fire does break out, remember that getting control over it as quickly as possible is vital. If we can get to a fire within the first hour, the possibility of a major incident is minimised."