

MINES RESCUE SERVICES *South Africa*

**SURFACE FIRE RESPONDER FOR
MINES
TRAINING PROSPECTUS / PROGRAMME**



APRIL 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

Mines Rescue Services (MRS), which was established in 1924 and provides a voluntary rescue service to the mining industry, is a private sector organisation that trains persons for rescue work and administers a rescue scheme, to provide rescue and recovery services, resources, and expertise for an effective emergency service primarily for the South African mining industry.

The company is internationally recognised and is a unique organisation that consists of practising subject matter experts, trainers, assessors, and moderators in the field of mines rescue services.

The company has been assessed and registered by the National Quality Authority against the provisions of the ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management System and has a reliable management information system.

MQA accredited the Skills Programme Registered Number: MQA/SP0174/18

The following prospectus applies to a Surface Fire Responder for Mines.

2. PURPOSE OF THE SKILLS PROGRAMME

This skills programme is designed to provide qualifying learners with the applied competence to extinguish fires using the appropriate equipment, in a controlled manner without further risk.

Recipients of this skills programme will gain the necessary knowledge and skills associated with fire-fighting techniques, risk management, appropriate emergency equipment, and emergency scene management.

The skills programme is designed to be flexible and empowers the learner to acquire and demonstrate knowledge, skills, attitude, and values required to work safely and effectively.

There is a need for persons in the mining industry to provide surface firefighting during emergencies in a controlled and conventional manner; and to establish common standards as there is an absence of formal structured training.

The competencies required for surface firefighting training are contained in the DMR mandatory Code of Practice on Emergency Preparedness and Response. Most of the candidates qualifying for this skills programme are likely to be working within the mining industry.

3. COMPOSITION OF THE SKILLS PROGRAMME

Core Unit Standards

The following core unit standards must be achieved:

SAQA NUMBER	UNIT STANDARD TITLE
12484	Perform basic fire fighting
244383	Conduct continuous hazard identification and risk assessment within a workplace
254215	Maintain and operate a range of emergency equipment
242825	Conduct evacuations and emergency drills

242852	Use a self-contained breathing apparatus
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Elective Unit Standards

At least one of the following unit standards must be achieved:

SAQA NUMBER	UNIT STANDARD TITLE
254223	Apply emergency scene safety measures
242999	Respond to and clean up a spill
376480	Provide first aid as an advanced first responder
242853	Perform support operations at a fire incident
255818	Perform rescue breathing and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
242855	Perform Vehicle rescue operations

4. RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

This skills programme can be achieved wholly, or in part, through recognition of prior learning.

Evidence can be presented in a variety of forms, including reports, testimonials mentioning functions performed and application of relevant competencies, work records, portfolios, performance records and videos of practice.

5. SURFACE FIRE RESPONDER FOR MINES (SFR) SELECTION CRITERIA

Due to the inherent dangers associated with this type of work and in addition to the requirements of the Mine Health and Safety Act (MHSA) and National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101 of 1998, the following requirements must be met when selecting an SFR for training:

- Minimum Standard of Fitness to Perform Work at a Mine. "Category 4" (Medical Certificate of Competency).
- Must have numeric and English literacy skills and be able to communicate in a team concept.
- The person has not attained the age of 60 years.
- Must have the physical requirements to use a Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA)

No exceptions will be made with the standard of the training and all candidates must pass the prescribed course prior to receiving a certificate as a Surface Fire Responder.

6. MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The medical examinations to be completed in detail as a candidate will not be allowed to undertake further training.

The following document must be completed before attending:

- **Minimum Standard of Fitness to Perform Work at a Mine (Category 4)**

The prospective Surface Fire Responder Team Member's Mine Medical Practitioner and the candidates own Medical Practitioner completes (Medical Certification form MRS/QM/FM 021). This medical examination must not be older than 6 months before attending the course.

7. RESCUE STATION ARRANGEMENTS AND COURSE PRE-REQUISITES

Light catering, tea, coffee, and refreshments are available and can be purchased at the relevant Rescue Stations.

Secure parking and full ablution facilities provided. All courses start at 07H30.

Note: No firearm is permitted on the premises.

When attending the course, you must be equipped with the following:

1. Documentation Pack.
2. Valid Medical Certification form (MRS/QM/Fm 021)
3. Certified copy of Identity Document / Passport.
4. Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. (Maintained and cylinder filled with compressed air)
5. Approved Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Clothing used by Surface Fire Responder Team Members must comply with relevant specifications:
 - a. Bunker suit (NFPA 1851 / EN 462)
 - b. Firefighter boots (NFPA 1971 / EN ISO 20345)
 - c. Bushfire overall (NFPA 1977)
 - d. Firefighter helmet (NFPA 1851 / EN 443)
 - e. Goggle (Flame resistant, not safety goggle)
 - f. Balaclava (NFPA 1971 / Nomex 3)
 - g. Firefighting gloves (NFPA 1971)
 - h. Thermal shocks (EN 531:1995 / EN ISO 14116)
6. Red Duffel Bag (Storage of PPE)
7. Toiletries and towel.
8. Notebook and pen.
9. Accommodation must be arranged where applicable. (Contact MRS for more information)

Note: Any additional ancillary equipment prescribed by the Mine or Company when deployed.

Any performance enhancing substances prior to and during the course is not allowed.

The dress code during the week is smart casual or issued uniform.

8. CONTACT DETAILS (RESCUE STATIONS)

Head Office	018 781-1141 / 2	admin@minerescue.co.za
Carletonville	018 781-1141 / 2	carleton@minerescue.co.za
Evander	017 632-4671 / 1122	evander@minerescue.co.za
Welkom	057 352-8398 / 2786	welkom@minerescue.co.za
Steelpoort	013 230-8050 / 1	steelpoort@minerescue.co.za

9. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to equip the prospective candidate with basic skills, knowledge and techniques applied to enhance their effectiveness and safe practices during an emergency or fire incident.

The basic tasks of surface fire responders include basic firefighting, rescue, fire prevention and continuous hazard identification. Fire-fighting is further broken down into skills which include: emergency scene safety measures, respond to and clean up a spill, support operations at fire incident and vehicle rescue operations.

10. SURFACE FIRE RESPONDER FOR MINES COURSE (5 Days)

This Course is to train Surface Fire Responder Team Members in the use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, basic firefighting, communication structure, operate a range of emergency equipment and associated techniques.

Training takes place at the relevant MRS Rescue Station and the syllabus is pre-set and divided into a morning and afternoon sessions, namely lectures (theory) and practical application, respectively.

Practical training entails the interpretation of the lectures.

The requirement to be certificated as a Surface Fire Responder is to successfully complete practical assessments and obtain a pass rate of 75% for the daily written examination of the course.

Detailed Programme

DAY 1

Theory

- Welcome and Introduction.
- Documentation (Indemnity, Medical and Ancillary equipment)
- Perform basic fire-fighting techniques.
- SCBA (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus)
- Filling depleted cylinders.

Practical

- Donning and doffing of the SCBA.
- Practical exercise.
- Washing and disinfecting of the SCBA.
- Filling depleted cylinders.

DAY 2

Theory

- Written test.
- Conduct evacuation and emergency drills.
- Maintain and operate a range of emergency equipment.
- Law and Regulations (Environmental Regulations for the Workplace / National Veld and Forest Fire Act 101)

- Conduct continuous Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment.

Practical

- Claustrophobic test in a confine area.
- Running out of delivery fire hose.
- Methods of rolling fire hoses up.
- Replacing of burst delivery fire hose.
- Adding a length of fire hose to a line.
- Draining a fire hose.

DAY 3

Theory

- Written test.
- Communication Structure.
- Support operation at a fire.
- Wildland / Veld fires.
- Air Stability.
- Parts of a Wildland / Veld fire.
- Attacking Wildland / Veld fires.
- CPR.

Practical

- Fire hose pressure and acceptance tests.
- Delivery fire hose couplings.
- Pinning a fire hose, Grip kneeling / standing, Standing "S" bend techniques.
- Over the shoulder advancing and pistol grip drag advancing.

DAY 4

Theory

- Apply emergency scene safety measures.
- Fire size-up and initial attack.
- How and where to attack a fire.
- Search and rescue of a patient in burning building / room.
- Entry of burning structures.
- Physical fitness, fatigue, and heat stress.

Practical

- Modified fire hose clamp and slide advance techniques.
- Running out of delivery fire hose.
- Replacing of burst delivery hose.
- Adding a length of hose to a line
- Practical exercise.

DAY 5

Theory

- Written final test.
- Physical Capacity Evaluation Test presentation.

Practical

- Physical Capacity Evaluation Test.

11. PERIODICAL REFRESHER TRAINING

Provide periodical refresher training for current Surface Fire Responder for Mines at interval of not more than 6 months.

12. CLOSING CEREMONY & CERTIFICATION

All candidates are debriefed, and certificates presented end of day five.

Successful candidates registered on Mine Qualification Authority (MQA) data base.

13. ANNEXURE A: SURFACE FIRE RESPONDER FLYER

SURFACE FIRE RESPONDER



TRAINING

TRAINED in:

- Basic Firefighting.
- Veld Fires.
- The Use of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus.
- Communication Structure.
- To Operate a Range of Emergency Equipment and Associated Techniques.

The 5-day skills program (**MQA/SP0174/18**), is a combination of theory and practical application sessions currently presented at all our Rescue Stations in South Africa.

Biannual refresher training is presented to certified Surface Fire Responders for Mines.

Candidates are nominated for training by the Mine or Company where employed.



MINES RESCUE SERVICES *South Africa*

MRS has a track record to none! 97 years existence and a vast experience in Mine Emergency Services and has been assessed and registered by the National Quality Authority against the provisions of the ISO 9001: 2015 Quality Management System.

BENEFITS TO MINES

- Cost effective and efficient through mutual sharing.
- Standardized Procedures and Equipment.
- Planned Maintenance and Management System.
- Emergency Prepared Teams.
- Expert Advice and Consultancy.



EQUIPMENT

Approved Firefighting and Rescue Equipment for Underground and Surface Operations.

- Clothing – Bunker suits, Helmets, Gloves etc.
- Protective Equipment.
- Breathing Equipment.
 - 30min to 4-hour duration.
- Body worn Self Rescuers.
 - 30min to 60min units.
- Hoses, Foam, Equipment etc.
- NFPA approved equipment from various trusted suppliers.



for more information contact:

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