



INTERNET ARTICLE

DWS raises awareness of water safety in Eastern Cape

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The Department of Water and Sanitation in Eastern Cape recently teamed up with the Sunday's River Local Municipality and the National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) to train unemployed youth on the significance of water safety around water sources and public swimming pools.

The training aimed to prevent drownings which mostly happen in the Kirkwood and Addo area where swimming mostly happens unsupervised and done by people with little to no swimming abilities.

"In the recent past, there has been drowning cases reported of young swimming near canals. This is either because they do not know how to swim, or there is no supervision. That is why supervision is necessary, hence we conducted this lifesaving skill for the youth. Therefore, these young people will be the ambassadors of water safety in their area," said Thembilizwi Macatshaza from the Department's provincial office.

A team of water safety instructors from NSRI led by Calville Abrahams conducted the swimming lessons to the youth who attended the training on the day.

During the training, Abrahams shared some important steps which included seeking assistance from a lifeguard, removing the victim from the water and placing them on the edge of the canal or river if safe, as well as monitoring the breathing of the person.

One of the trainees Sanele Momoza, expressed appreciation for the training received and committed to share the tips with his counterparts.

"The training from NSRI organised by the Department will help me to assist in the event where there is a drowning of people in the canals, and I will use everything I learnt to teach others in my area," he said.

Also in attendance was the Mayor of Sundays River Local Municipality, Cllr Simphiwe Rune who welcomed the training programme of young people from Addo and Kirkwood area and commended the initiative.

Lameki Jumba