

SARZA

**SEARCH & RESCUE
SOUTH AFRICA**



+27 101 401 911





FORWARD BY:
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GAUTENG PROVINCE

HEALTH
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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To SARZA

My background in the Emergency medical services started in 2002, I moved over to government services in 2004 as I felt that this is where I could make the biggest difference and impact more lives.

The journey was full of trails and tribulations, definitely not the easiest but very rewarding. From 2004 to 2013 I worked mostly operationally and worked myself up the ranks to my current position as Deputy director: Communication and Special operations of arguably one of the biggest Emergency medical services in the world.

Through this position I first had the opportunity to meet with what was then ORRU, all I knew at that time was that it was a 4x4 type search and rescue volunteer unit that I saw when participating in certain events.

After a brief presentation on the capabilities of the unit the relation quickly grew from strength to strength. SARZA in essence became an extension to our multiple casualties, disaster and special response from there on in.

Today I cannot imagine the search and rescue landscape without SARZA, it is one of the most disciplined and professional units I have ever worked with, no task assigned to them is ever too big or too small, they respect government process and never over reach their mandate and were also able to breach the gap between many agencies that in the past did not work together and today these agencies combine very well to establish one of the most effective search and rescue collaborations in South Africa.

From myself as well as Gauteng Emergency services I would like to thank you for your selfless dedication, you are true to your motto "so others may live".

JP von Benecke
Deputy Director: Communications/Special Operations
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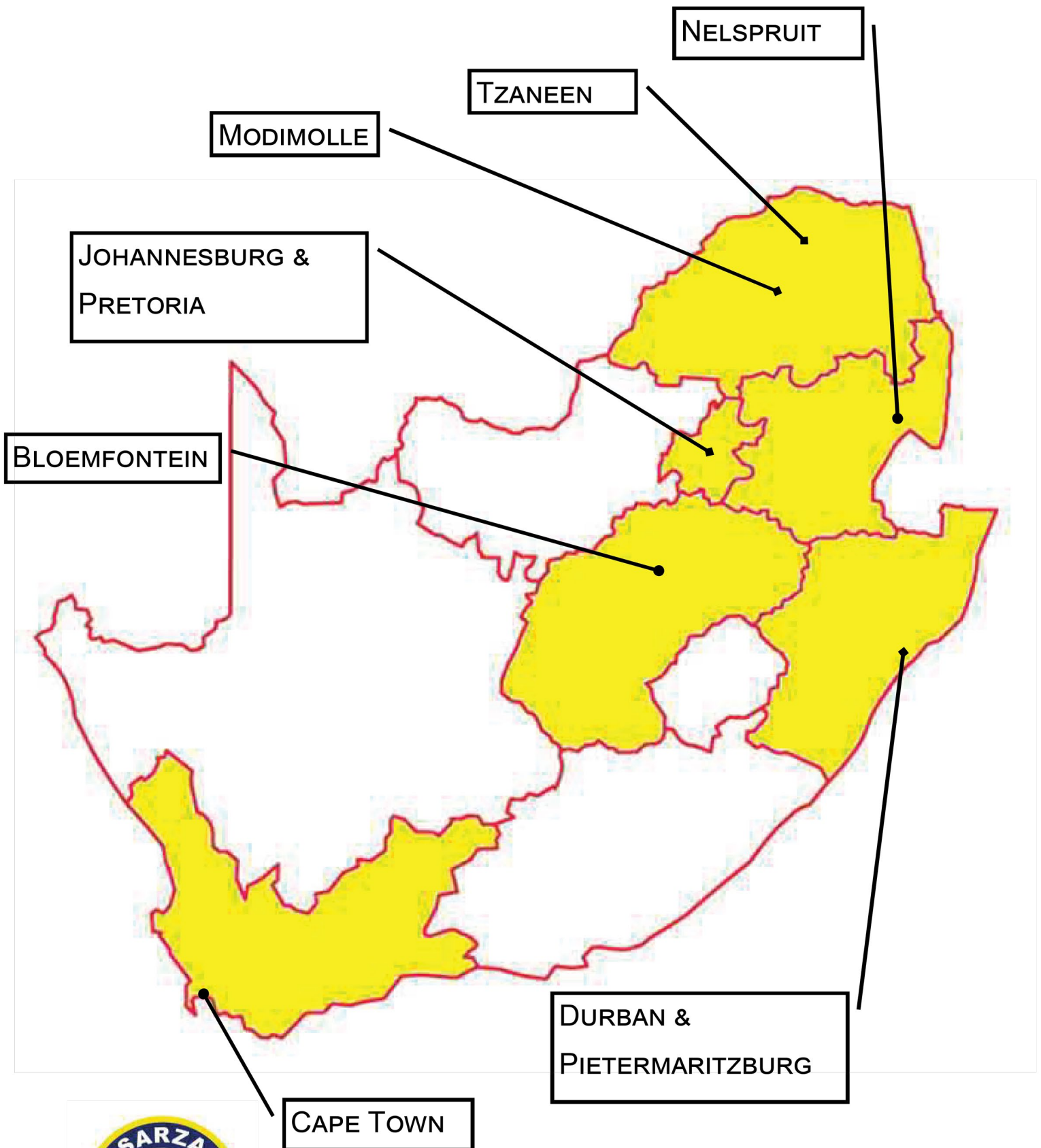


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SOUTH AFRICAN FOOTPRINT





MISSION & BACKGROUND

The mission of **SARZA** is to provide a competent, efficient volunteer emergency search and rescue service dedicated to saving human life and able to operate in rough and difficult terrain conditions alongside other search and rescue services in times of natural or man-made, civil disaster or emergency.

SARZA is a highly-trained crew of volunteer 4x4 owners in South Africa with regional teams based in 6 of the 9 provinces.

The Unit works closely with local, regional and national Emergency Management Services, Disaster Management, the South African Air Force, Civil Aviation (Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre), South African Police Service, the Mountain Club of South Africa Search and Rescue, National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI), Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) and other official and civilian volunteer organisations.

The Unit provides wilderness and urban search and rescue services, transport, logistical support, radio communications and Incident Command. SARZA deploys in rough terrain and in urban areas in times of need including civil, national or international emergencies.

Each year, the Unit receives more than fifty calls for assistance and in more than half of these instances, the Unit's comprehensive emergency-assistance capabilities are required and members are mobilised and deployed.

The name SARZA was derived from Search and Rescue South Africa, with South Africa being replaced by the domain code of ZA.

In 2017 SARZA achieved Public Benefit Organisation (PBO) status and during 2018 SARS awarded SARZA with Section 18A status.

SARZA is a proud Level 1 B-BBEE contributor.



HISTORY



SARZA can trace its origins to the late 1980's as the Four Wheel Drive Club (4WDC) of South Africa.

In the late 1980's when a prospective member joined the 4WDC he filled in a form. On the form, one of the questions that was asked was, "Will you be willing to assist in times of national or civil emergency?" As a result of this question, the Club had an indication of who amongst the membership was prepared to assist in an emergency situation.

During mid 1990 an aircraft went missing in the Black Umfolozi River valley of Northern Kwazulu Natal (KZN). After an extended search for the aircraft, the rescue team turned up nothing and the official search was called off. However, the family of the missing people decided to continue the search and put out the word for private assistance. The local parachute club, the local hiking club and the local police force made themselves available. One of the family members was also a member of the KZN chapter of the 4WDC and asked the club if they could assist. This request ended up at the 4WDC in Johannesburg and members willing to assist were called up, based on what they had filled in on their application forms.

From this, a group of 6 vehicles under the leadership of the then 4WDC Chairman, Neville Marsh, left Johannesburg on a Thursday morning and drove down to assist in the search activities in KZN. Using only 29 mHz CB radios as communications (there were only 3 hams in the convoy so VHF was not an option) the party's search was unsuccessful and they returned to Johannesburg on the Monday evening. Unfortunately the aircraft was not found. In fact, the wreckage was only discovered a number of years later by some backpackers in the Southern Drakensberg area hundreds of kilometres away.

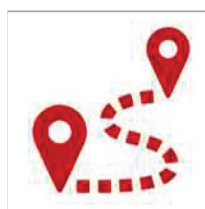
The organisation of that search, the logistics behind it and the processes and procedures were all rather haphazard and very disorganised. It became apparent to Neville and some other members of the team that this could be done more efficiently and professionally if people were correctly trained, correct search management techniques were practised and a structured command process was in place. A decision was made to call a meeting in Johannesburg to see who would be interested in forming a volunteer rescue organisation.

The first meeting was held at Sturrock Park close to Wits and the organisation was formed with an interim committee to get it off the ground. A number of those founding members are still active in SARZA today. In the weeks and months that followed, a constitution was drafted and the Rescue Unit at the time was formed.

In 2021 the Unit went through a name and brand change in order to align closer with the core service offerings that it provides, specifically Search and Rescue and the organisation changed name from the Off Road Rescue Unit (ORRU) to SARZA.

OUR LOGO

The SARZA logo has been developed with a combination of a compass rose and a derivative of a medical cross. The four cardinal points of the compass rose represent the Unit's values that SARZA is based upon, namely; **Trust**, **Respect**, **Passion** and **Altruism**. The compass rose is supported by an eight sided medical cross which represent eight core skills that the Unit trains on in order to deliver its missions.







CORE SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

Over the years, SARZA has developed and revised the Unit's core skills and capabilities. These capabilities change and are enhanced from experience gained on call outs and deployments in the field.





List of Core Skills and Capabilities

- First-aid and medical training
- Patient extrication
- Search and rescue procedures
- Radio communications
- VHF, UHF, HF & satellite phones
- Helicopter-borne insertion and extraction
- Crime scene management
- Navigation by GPS
- Map and compass work
- Rope rescue techniques
- Mountain rescue training
- Off-road driving
- Vehicle recovery
- Vehicle maintenance
- Fire fighting
- Search management
- Incident management



SPECIALIST EQUIPMENT

SARZA's specialist equipment is largely broken down into:

- Specialist Medical Equipment
- Specialist Recue Equipment

All equipment is available on Search and Rescue call outs and is stored in the unit's Mobile Command Post (MCP).





Medical Equipment

- Titanium basket stretcher (7 kg)
- Stainless steel basket stretcher (15 kg)
- Vacuum mattress
- Plastic stokes stretcher
- Multiple scoop stretchers
- SKED stretcher
- Two litter wheels
- Multiple spine boards
- Multiple AEDs
- Medicinal oxygen
- Traction splints

Specialist Rescue Equipment

- Rescue ropes and rigging hardware
- Radios and communication devices
- Radio masts and high-gain antennas
- Search management equipment
- Rescue personal flotation devices
- Inflatable rescue boat





Arnold Dippensaar
PHOTOGRAPHY

MOBILE COMMAND POSTS

The Unit makes use of multiple Mobile Command Posts (MCP) across the various regions. Different MCP's are used in Gauteng and the Lowveld.

The Mobile Command Posts (MCP) were designed and fabricated specifically for the needs of SAR requirements based on the 30 years of experience that SARZA holds. The MCP has been designed to provide dedicated command and search management facilities on one side with the other side providing a kitchen and medical setup. MCP was designed for easy deployment in rough terrain and can be effectively towed by a suitable 4x4 vehicle.





MCP Contents (Gauteng)

- 50 inch monitor for Incident Command and Search Management
- UHF, VHF, HF and airband radio capabilities
- VSAT System (Internet via satellite)
- Medical supplies (AED, vacuum mattress, oxygen, traction splints)
- Kitchen unit and food supplies
- Solar panels
- Generator
- 4 x 105 Ah batteries
- 150 litre water tank
- Scene lighting
- WiFi and printer

MCP Contents (Lowveld)

Foxy - Operations and Events

- 2inch LCD tv with laptop and internet connectivity
- 3x 105AH rechargeable battery
- UHF and VHF radio capabilities
- Silent generator
- Scene lighting
- 40 litre water tank

Kitty - Call outs and Rescues

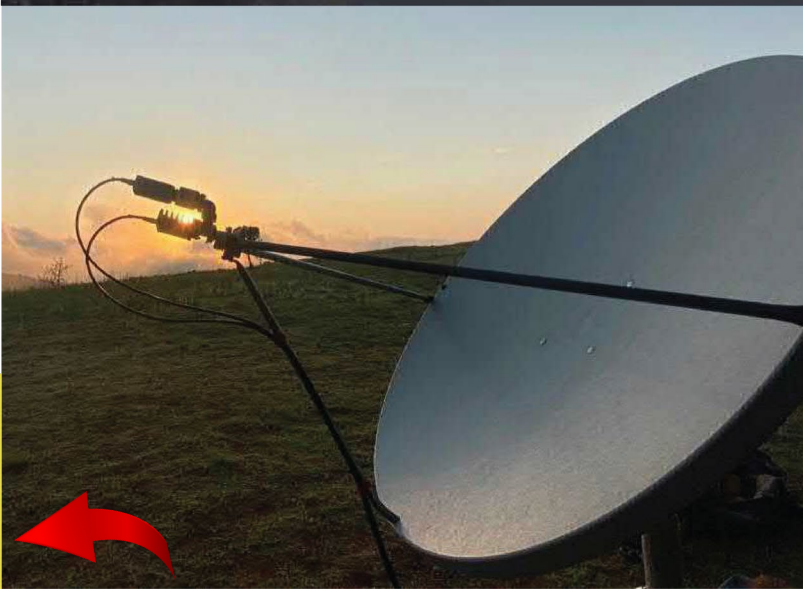
- Stokes and basket stretcher
- High angle rescue rigging equipment
- Swift water rescue equipment
- Medical supplies (AED, vacuum mattress, oxygen)



INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

As part of SARZA's Communication and Command and Control capabilities, the Unit excels in Incident Management . SARZA is often called upon to provide a structured Incident Command on large incidents. SARZA subscribes to D4H Incident Management which provides an online platform whereby an incident is managed and tracked.







TRAINING

SARZA carries out regular training for its members. Specific focus is placed on core skills and other SAR skills and techniques needed in the field. SARZA holds its own training by experienced members, as well as utilising training from external sources. The internal training programme that SARZA runs includes theory training in the classroom as well as practical training in the field.

SARZA subscribes to two D4H platforms, namely "Personnel and Training" and "Equipment Management" which are used to track and monitor training programmes and the team's personnel as well as equipment usage and inspections thereof. D4H is a commercial web based platform used internationally by various government and private organisations.







CALL OUTS & RESCUES

LOCAL

SARZA partakes in a number of Search and Rescue call outs locally within South Africa. The call outs are initiated from a local authority, SAR partner or a member of the public who is directed to one of SARZA's Duty Officers via the SARZA emergency number.

Once a call out has been received and screened by the Duty Officer, an SMS is sent out to the unit and a team is shortlisted based on the requirements and needs of the mission.





River Searches

SARZA has assisted SAPS and COJEMS on numerous searches for flood victims along river banks in Gauteng. These searches have included searching along the Jukskei River from Alexandra to Hartebeespoort Dam, the Klipriver in Soweto and the Hennops River west of Pretoria. The searches typically run over extended periods and involve physically demanding work and coordination between rescue swimmers, water craft and dog handlers.

Magaliesberg

Magaliesberg is a popular hiking destination close to Johannesburg and Pretoria and attracts large numbers of hikers of varying age and ability. SARZA is often called out to Magaliesberg with MSAR for a variety of Search and Rescue missions. These call outs vary between lost and injured hikers to body recoveries.

SARZA was also involved in the 2016 rescue at the Hartbeespoort Dam Cableway when the gearing mechanism malfunctioned. There were approximately 60 guests at the top of the cableway and in three cableway cars which were stranded midway.

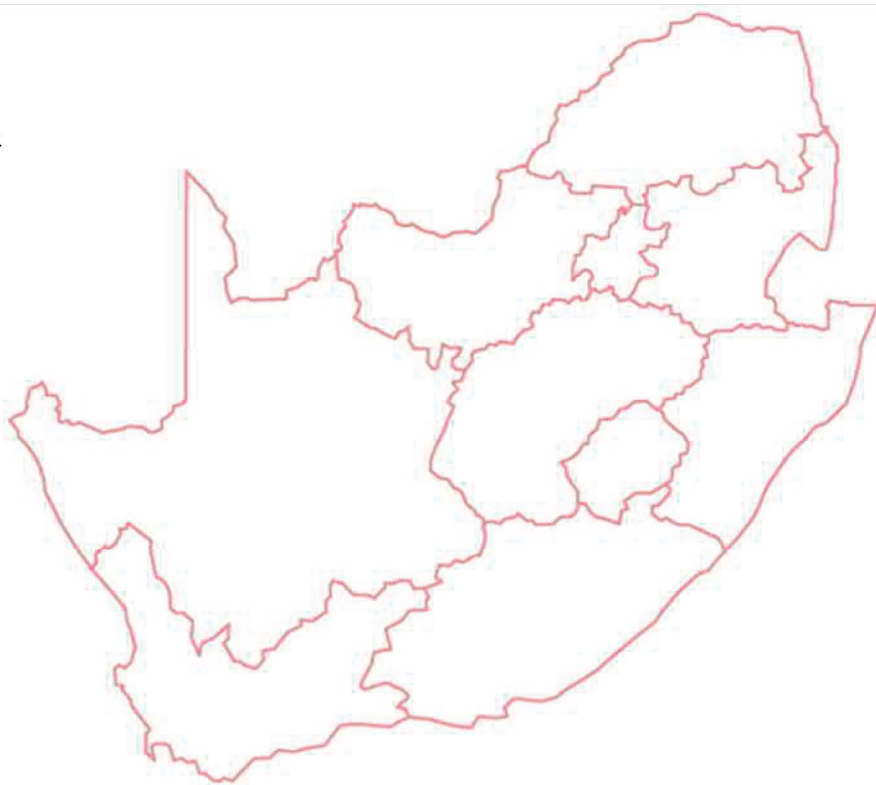
Another noteworthy Magaliesberg rescue that SARZA was involved in was the 2014 cave rescue, where a hiker [religious pilgrim] became trapped in a cave with his leg completely wedged between two rocks. The only way to free the person was by amputation of the person's leg.



© Simon McDonnell 2015

CALL OUTS & RESCUES

LOCAL





Collapsed Structures

Occasionally, SARZA has been called to assist with collapsed structures, usually as a result of illegal mining activities where the integrity of structures become compromised resulting in their collapse. SARZA has been called out to assist with communications and scene lighting in Urban Rescue, such as structural collapses.



Mine Rescues

In the past, SARZA has been called out to a number of mine rescues, ranging from mine shafts to open cast mines and mine dumps. In most cases, SAPS or EMS require assistance to gain access to rough terrain in the search or rescue of a missing person or an injured patient. SARZA has also assisted with body recoveries in mine shafts where specialist rope work is required.

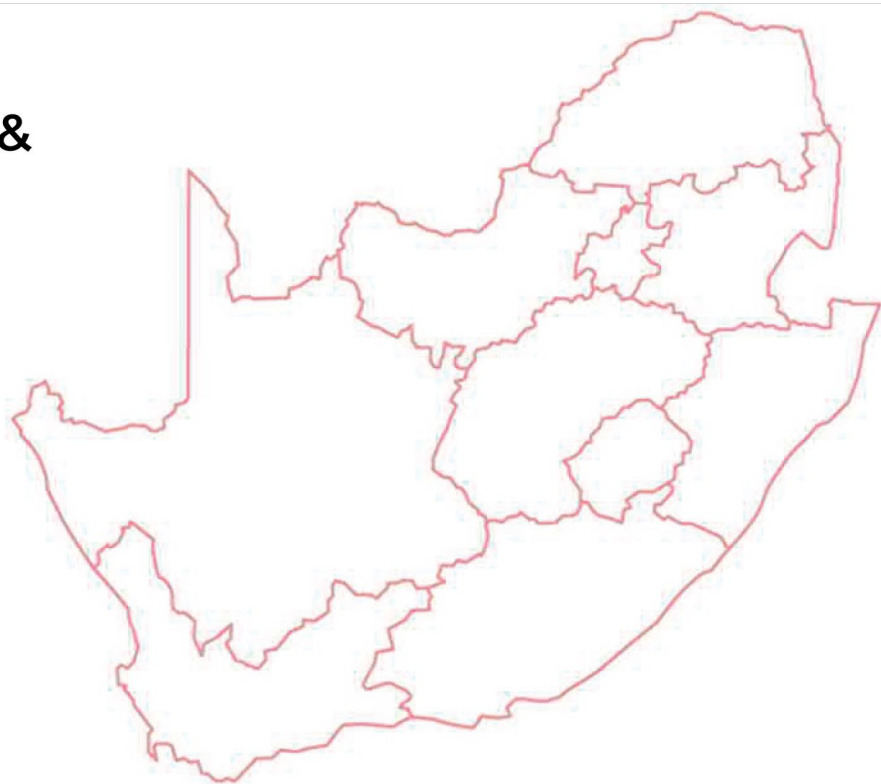




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CALL OUTS & RESCUES

LOCAL





Supporting South African Police Services (SAPS)

SARZA is often called upon by the SAPS to assist in the search for missing persons in the wilderness terrain. During these times, SARZA forms part of the SAPS team and provides logistical support becoming a “force multiplier” amongst the police services.



Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre (ARCC)

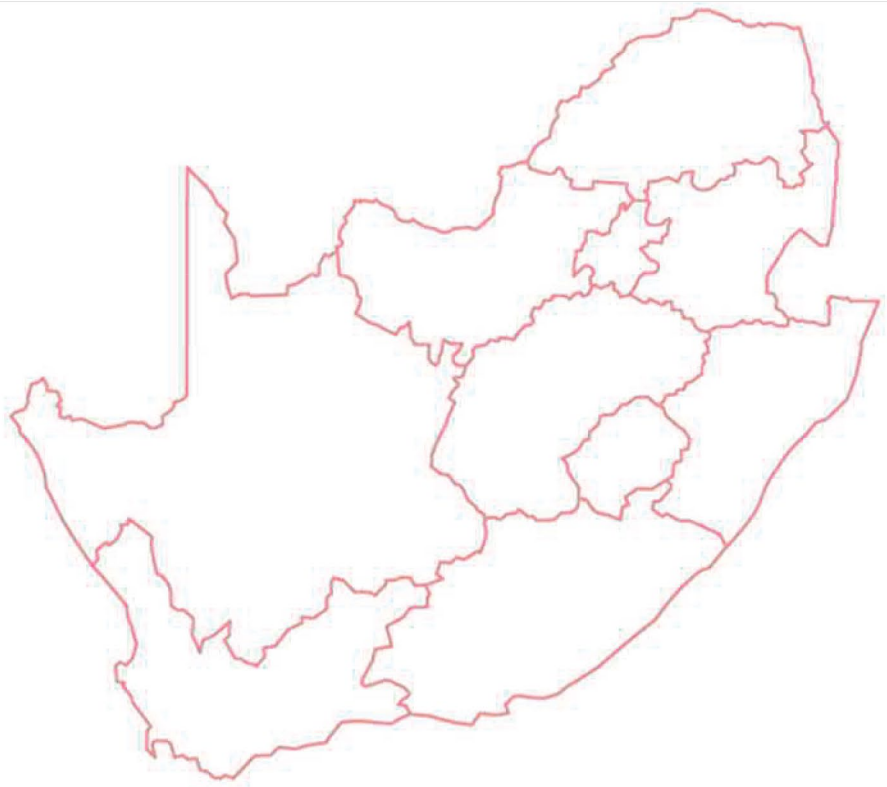
SARZA is often deployed by the ARCC for the search and recovery of missing or downed aircraft. These call outs are typically covered across the whole of South Africa and often in challenging terrain and difficult weather conditions. On certain instance SARZA is tasked with on scene Incident Command on such call outs and works closely with the ARCC in the search for missing aircraft.





CALL OUTS & RESCUES

LOCAL





Cape Town - Table Mountain

SARZA Western Cape is a signatory to Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR) and, as such, provides logistical and communications support to the Western Cape Department of Health EMS.

Most of the rescues in the Western Cape, which are supported by SARZA, take place within the Table Mountain National Park, Helderberg and Boland mountain ranges. Table Mountain National Park is considered one of the most active rescue sites in the Southern Hemisphere with more than 450 call outs being received annually.

SARZA provides assistance by driving rescuers into wilderness environments, maintaining communication between rescuers and EMS rescue base as well as assisting with the recovery of patients and stricken vehicles.

Western Cape Fires

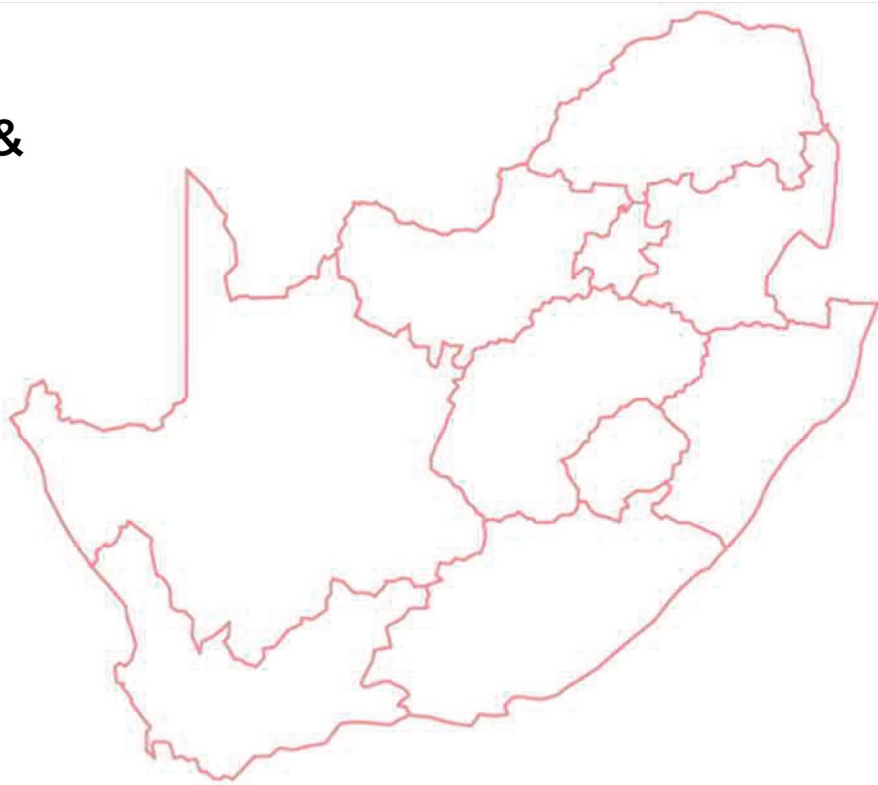
SARZA supports Western Cape Disaster Risk Management during weather events and especially during fire season. The Unit is relied upon to assist with the evacuation of threatened homes and traffic control in areas affected by fire.

During 2017, SARZA played a pivotal role in moving personnel around areas of Knysna stricken by the great fire of that year. They were tasked with recording all structural damage in the extended Knysna district and to upload photographs and infrastructure detail onto a central government database. Some 600 buildings that were damaged or destroyed by the fire were placed on the database.



CALL OUTS &
RESCUES

LOCAL





Limpopo

SARZA supports the local Limpopo SAPS and EMS services. Typical call outs within Limpopo involve Search and Rescue within the Wolkberg Wilderness area which includes the rugged Wolkberg mountain range between Tzaneen and Polokwane.

Specific assistance that is provided in Limpopo include medical support, assistance at road accident scenes, traffic control, road rescue access, water rescue and occasionally safe snake removals.



Lowveld

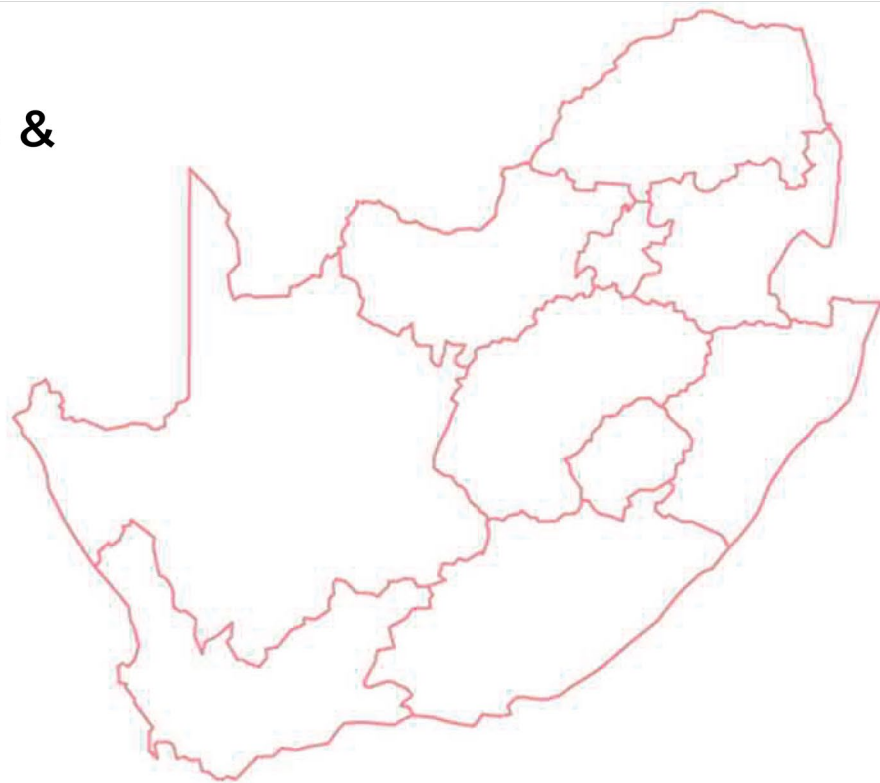
SARZA Lowveld responds to call outs in the greater Lowveld region of Mpumalanga or typically within a 170km radius of Nelspruit. The region provide assistance to EMS, Fire Services, Provincial Disaster Management and SAPS, especially when specialist equipment and rope access skills are needed to access the patient.

With many of the operations, SARZA Lowveld team is the first agency to respond with wilderness search & rescue and/or rope access capabilities. This is due to the remoteness of the region and far distances from main metropolitan areas where these type of agencies are more common.



CALL OUTS &
RESCUES

LOCAL





KZN Floods 2022

Kwa-Zulu Natal was hit by unseasonal rainfall in April 2022 which caused severe flooding and mudslides across the province. A Provincial State of Disaster was declared as a result of the flooding which claimed over 450 people lives and left thousands homeless. The 2022 flood disaster was one of the worst natural disasters that South Africa had ever experienced.

SARZA KZN was initially called to assist at local incident's. Once the Provincial State of Disaster was declared, SARZA nationally was requested to support the national response and SARZA established a team consisting of members from Gauteng, KZN, Limpopo, Free State, Western Cape and Mpumalanga to assist in the Rescue and Recovery of the subsequent flooding and mud slides.

SARZA was tasked to provide support to the Incident Command for the National response along with logistical and communications support.



Support to Provincial EMS

SARZA provides support to the respective regional provincial Emergency Management Services.

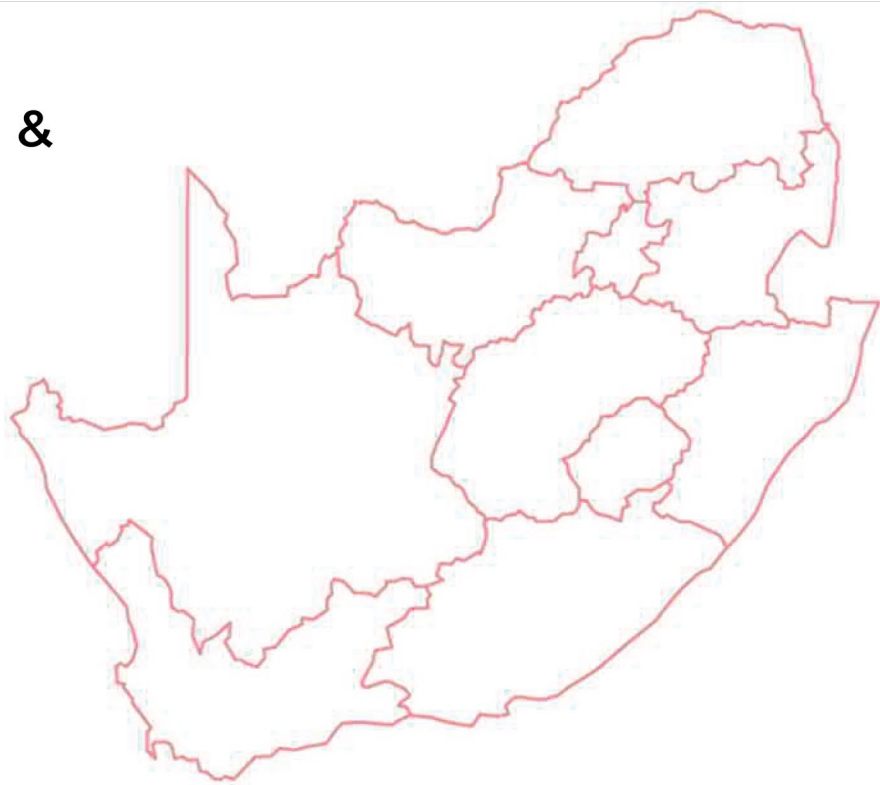
In 2020 Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital experienced a fire in the hospital's basement resulting in the full evacuation of one of the largest hospitals in Africa. SARZA was called to provide support to Gauteng EMS and assisted with the evacuation of over 1000 patients.

During July 2021 when mass riots and looting took place in South Africa, SARZA was called by GEMS to assist with the evacuation of clinics and hospitals across the Gauteng province.



CALL OUTS &
RESCUES

LOCAL





Boksburg Explosion

On 24 December 2022 a tragic explosion took place in Boksburg Gauteng with a LPG tanker. The tanker caught alight under a bridge and exploded causing severe damage to surrounding infrastructure and onlookers. Over 40 people were tragically killed in this incident.

SARZA was called to assist provincial EMS and SAPS with logistical and Incident Command support.



Jagersfontein Slimes Dam Collapse

On Sunday 11 September 2022, a slimes dam wall collapsed in Jagersfontein in the Free State.

SARZA Free State was called by the police to assist with the initial Search and Rescue response. SARZA provided radio communications, Incident Command and rescuer's to search through the affected areas.



CALL OUTS & RESCUES

INTERNATIONAL

International call outs and deployments are usually complex in nature and involve multiple agencies and diplomacy between the respective countries and South Africa.

Typically, a major response to an international disaster will be initiated from an aid agency such as Rescue SA or Gift of the Givers. These agencies then request SARZA to form part of the team and provide the specialist skills that SARZA holds.





Haiti Earthquake

January 2010

In January 2010, a catastrophic magnitude 7.0M earthquake occurred on the island of Haiti.

Rescue SA established a team of medical personnel and rescue technicians to support the disaster.

SARZA was part of the team and provided communication support on the ground between respective team members and manning a JOC for the Rescue SA team. SARZA further provided HF communications back to South Africa in order to keep the team in contact with home base and loved ones back home.



Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

March 2011

On Friday 11 March 2011, a magnitude 9M earthquake occurred off the coast of Japan resulting in a devastating Tsunami along Japan's coastline.

Rescue SA established a team to provide Urban Search and Rescue and medical support for the people of the Asian Island.

SARZA was part of the team and provided communication support on the ground between respective team members. The Unit also manned a Joint Operations Centre (JOC) for the Rescue SA team.



CALL OUTS &

RESCUES

INTERNATIONAL





Lesotho Snow

July 2012

Heavy snow was experienced in the Mountain Kingdom of Lesotho in July 2011. Many people who travelled into the mountains to experience snow became trapped and “snowed in”. The popular ski resort, Afri Ski, became inaccessible by vehicle.

SARZA was called to provide assistance to those stranded along mountainous roads and to assist with the safe evacuation of the people stranded at Afri Ski.

Super Typhoon Yolanda (Philippines)

November 2013

During November 2013, SARZA formed an integral part of the Rescue SA team that was deployed to the Philippines to provide disaster relief after the devastation of Typhoon Yolanda. Typhoon Yolanda left over 6000 people dead and 15 million people homeless.

SARZA’s primary role was to provide the team with communications and navigation once in the country. During this time SARZA was able to establish communications back to South Africa via HF radio.



CALL OUTS & RESCUES

INTERNATIONAL





Malawi Floods

January 2015

Severe flooding occurred in Malawi during January 2015. Rescue SA was called by the Malawian Government to provide assistance in the 15 of 28 disaster zones.

A team consisting of medical personnel, rescue technicians, logistical support amongst other specialists was established and deployed to Malawi to assist.

SARZA formed part of the team and provided communication support amongst the team, as well as communication back to South Africa.

Cyclone Idai (Mozambique and Zimbabwe)

March 2019

On 14 March 2019, Cyclone Idai hit Beira, a coastal city of Mozambique. Once the cyclone made landfall, it tracked through Mozambique and into the eastern parts of Zimbabwe. The Cyclone and subsequent flood damage caused severe damage to infrastructure and up to 1000 lives were lost in the Southern African countries.

SARZA was deployed as part of the Gift of the Givers response for both the Mozambique and Zimbabwe disasters. The team that responded to Mozambique drove from Johannesburg and SARZA was tasked with communications, navigation, vehicle convoy and vehicle recoveries.





CALL OUTS &
RESCUES

INTERNATIONAL





Turkey Earthquake

February 2023

On 6 February 2023 a magnitude 7.8 earthquake occurred in Turkey near the northern border of Syria which was then followed by another 7.9 magnitude earthquake hours later to the south west.

The confirmed death toll is just under 60 000 people and considered the most deadly natural disaster in modern history.

SARZA deployed to Turkey as part of the Gift of the Givers team which was made up of many organisations. SARZA's role in the GOTG team was to provide communication and logistical support and had seven members in Turkey as part of the team.





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PARTNERS

SARZA partners with multiple government and private agencies that have a role in the Search and Rescue environment. These partners include other voluntary SAR organisations, private EMS, South African Air Force, South African Police Services and Disaster Response organisations to name a few.







COMMUNITY SPORTS EVENTS

SARZA provides a service to large sporting single- or multi-day events that typically require command and control structures as well as communication support in either the urban or wilderness environment. These large events form a cornerstone to SARZA's training as it prepares the unit for the typical scenarios that would be found in a rescue. Skills such as problem solving, being first on scene with patients, radio communication, driving, navigation and working in remote areas are practised and consolidated during these events.





joberg2c



UITSOEK
MOUNTAIN MARATHON





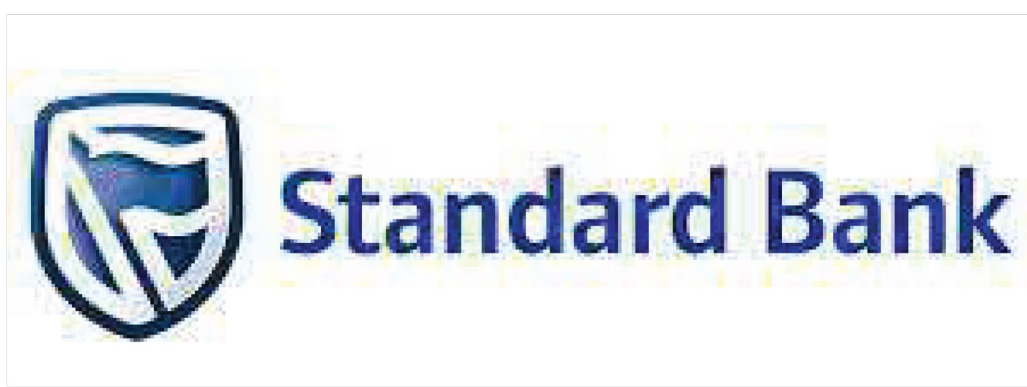
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SPONSORS AND AWARDS

SARZA relies on the financial sponsorship from organisations in order to fund the Units operational costs. This includes corporate donations and discounts on critical equipment for the specific funding of call out and training operations.

SARZA has recently been the recipient of a number of awards specifically for its contribution towards the Department of Transport's SASAR operations as well as contribution towards the Gauteng EMS.





In grateful appreciation for many years of outstanding service and commitment to the South African Search and Rescue (SASAR) Organisation

Awarded by the Honourable FA Mbalula,
Minister of Transport (MP) 2023



For your extraordinary dedication & service to the Gauteng EMS. You are our force multiplier, back-up and muscle

EMS Day 2022



HOW TO CONTACT US

SARZA makes use of a central number for the coordination of **call outs** and **rescues** which is managed by assigned duty officers. The **emergency** call out number is **+27 101 401 911**. For further contact details please refer to the SARZA website **www.sarza.co.za** or email the following:

National Coordinator	—	national@SARZA.co.za
SARZA Gauteng	—	gauteng@SARZA.co.za
SARZA Limpopo	—	limpopo@SARZA.co.za
SARZA Lowveld (Nelspruit)	—	nelspruit@SARZA.co.za
SARZA Western Cape	—	westerncape@SARZA.co.za
SARZA KZN	—	kzn@SARZA.co.za
SARZA Free State	—	freestate@SARZA.co.za



www.sarza.co.za









SARZA 2023 IN NUMBERS

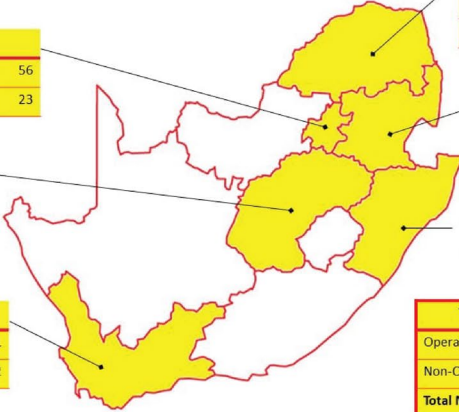


SARZA 2023 Member Numbers

Gauteng	
Operational Members	56
Non-Operational Members	23

Free State	
Operational Members	10
Non-Operational Members	8

Western Cape	
Operational Members	31
Non-Operational Members	12



Limpopo	
Operational Members	6
Non-Operational Members	15

Mpumalanga	
Operational Members	21
Non-Operational Members	12

Kwazulu-Natal	
Operational Members	10
Non-Operational Members	4

TOTAL MEMBERS IN SA	
Operational Members	134
Non-Operational Members	74
Total Members	208

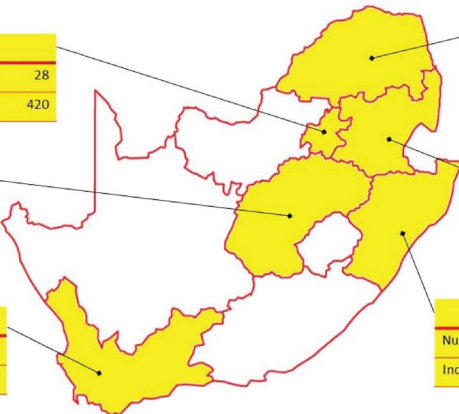


SARZA 2023 Call Out Statistics

Gauteng	
Number of Incident's	28
Incident Man Day's	420

Free State	
Number of Incident's	6
Incident Man Day's	83

Western Cape	
Number of Incident's	183
Incident Man Day's	413



Limpopo	
Number of Incident's	15
Incident Man Day's	109

Mpumalanga	
Number of Incident's	24
Incident Man Day's	276

Kwazulu-Natal	
Number of Incident's	6
Incident Man Day's	58



SARZA National People Assisted - 2023

People Assisted



479

Body Recoveries



116

Km travelled for rescue operations



110 000 km

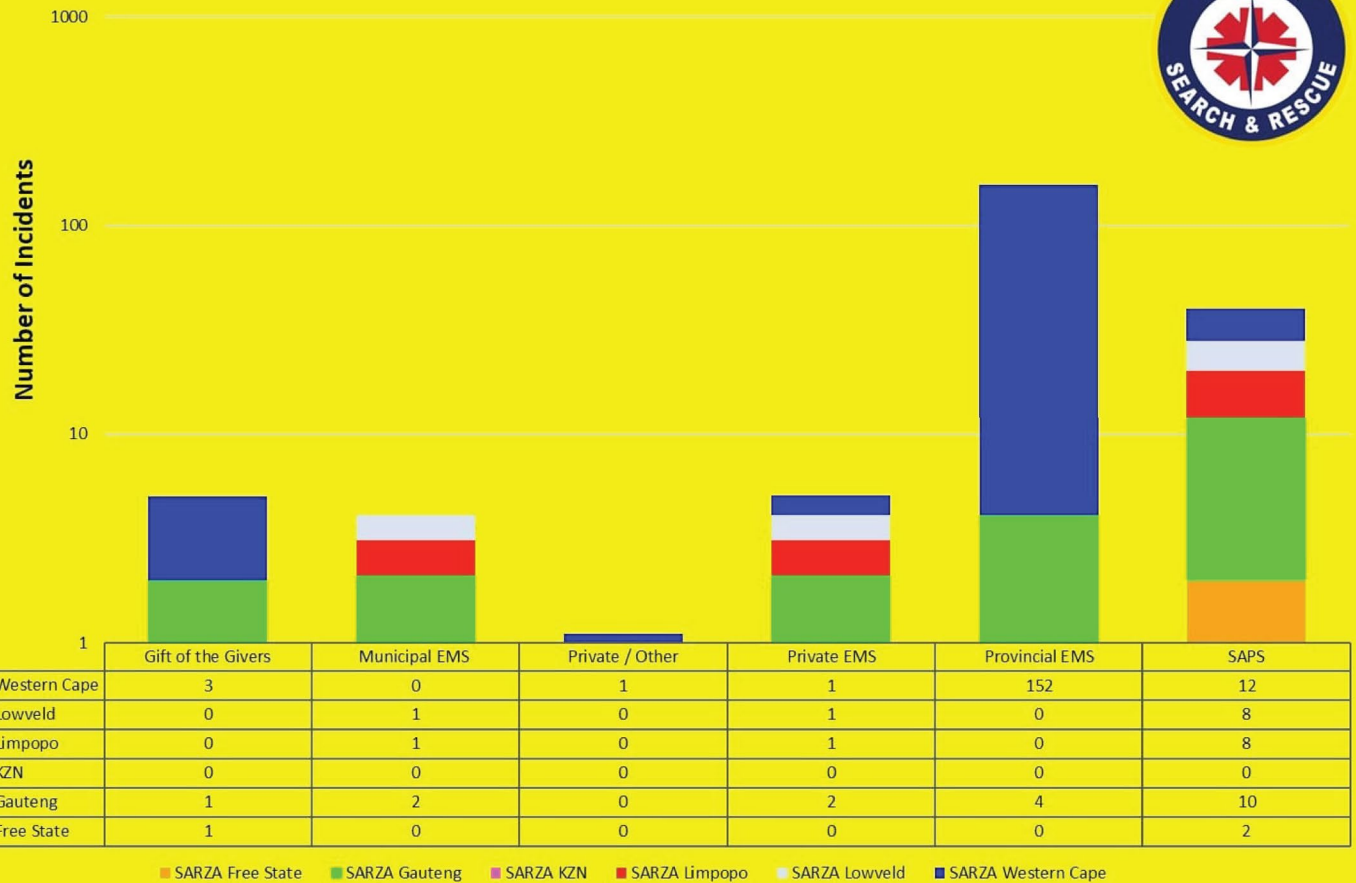
* Excluding:
1. Turkey Earthquake
2. Western Cape Floods
3. Ladismith Floods

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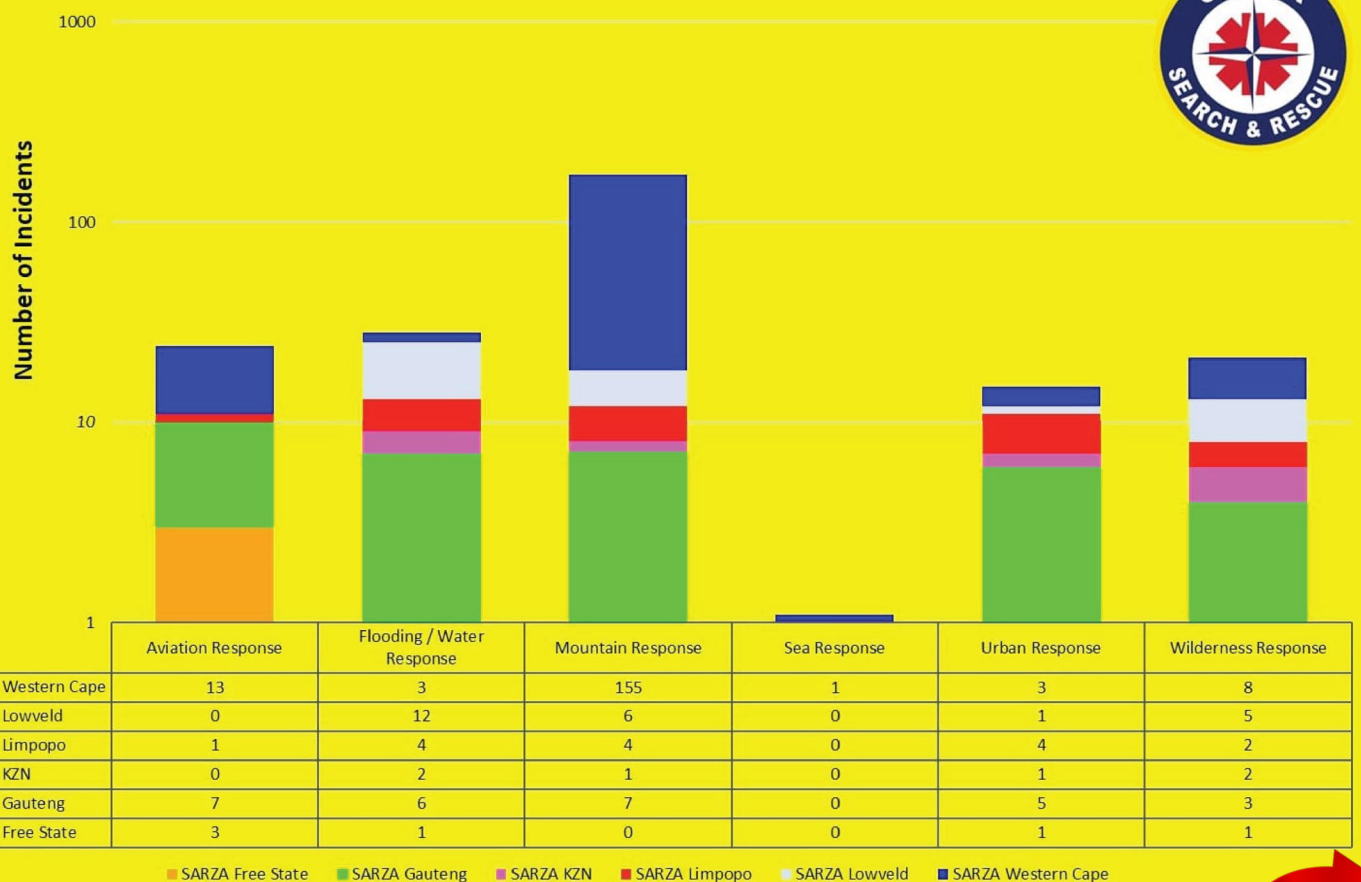


SARZA 2023 IN NUMBERS

SARZA National Call Outs - 2023



SARZA National Call Outs - 2023





+27 101 401 911

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So others may live...

