

# LEBONE COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY CARE SPECIAL BULLETIN

Keeping you Informed

18 November 2021

## 2021 CORMORANT SEARCH AND RESCUE SIMULATION

by: Cobus Cox and Lesego Mpetla

In the month of November 2021, the South African Police Service (SAPS) together with Gauteng Emergency Medical Services (GEMS) hosted the second Annual Rescue Simulation exercise called Cormorant.

This Year the exercise was hosted at Sunset View Family Resort, Bon Accord Dam in Onderstepoort, Pretoria and included a Multi-Agency Response to a Simulated Aircraft Accident.

The Simulation Exercise entailed an aircraft that departed from Wonderboom National Airport with a flight plan to Airdrop Skydivers. After departure, the aircraft experienced engine failure and headed back to the airport for an emergency landing. The aircraft was unable to reach the airport and radar contact was lost over Bon Accord Dam. Eyewitnesses reported seeing skydivers jump from the aircraft at low altitude followed by the aircraft ditching in Bon Accord Dam.



Due to the nature of the accident multiple casualties were spread out over a 3km<sup>2</sup> area which included the Dam, the waterfront, as well as, the wilderness surrounding the Dam. The Exercise Called for a multidisciplinary approach to the incident. This included Small Boats Rescue, Aviation Rescue, Fire Fighting, High Angle Rescue, and Wilderness Search and Rescue.





The Exercise was controlled from a Joint Operations Command Centre (JOC) and all Teams reported to the JOC before dispatch to Search and Rescue Victims of the Aircraft Accident.

We would like to thank everyone whom made the day possible as well as all Agencies involved.



Search and Rescue Teams comprised of multiple agencies namely: Wonderboom Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting, Tshwane Fire and Rescue, South African Police Service, Search and Rescue South Africa, Gauteng Emergency Medical Services, Gauteng Pathology, Mountain Search and Rescue, Aeronautical Rescue Coordination Centre, HALO Aviation and Bidvest Protea Coin Security Services Helicopters.



Services were activated from a staging area and proceeded to the scene in Real World Conditions. The Simulation commenced shortly after 07h00 and all 10 Patients were located, recovered and delivered to a field hospital at 13h00.

The Goal of The Rescue Simulation Exercise was for different agencies to come together and work as one team, challenging Rescue and Emergency Medical abilities

