

MUTUAL AID: AFRD & CAPE TOWN SA FIRE RESCUE

Mutual aid is a familiar practice within the world of fire / rescue operations. Last month that practice linked two fire / rescue service industry leaders from each of the earth's two hemispheres.

On May 23, 2014 representatives of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Department joined with the Cape Town Fire Rescue Department (CTFR) in South Africa in a special expression of mutual aid. They combined their resources to aid eight hundred children who attend the impoverished Bramble Way Primary School in Cape Town's Bonteheuwel Township.



Prior to 1994 Bonteheuwel Township's people lived under the oppressive segregation of apartheid. Today, South Africa is now free from the yoke of apartheid thanks to Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress' tenacious sacrifices. In the struggle for freedom, hundreds of children were killed for their efforts to eradicate apartheid from our planet.

Children, who were born after Nelson Mandela ascended to the presidency, are referred to as the "Born Free" children. It was the goal of AFRD and CTFR to provide Bramble Way's children with hundreds of pencils bearing AFRD's logo and fire safety messages.

To commemorate the delivery of those much appreciated school supplies, CTFR put on a live action fire safety demonstration, complete with firefighters in turn out gear. Pumper engines spit out high pressure streams of water. The kids were thrilled to help the firefighters handle hoses as they snaked across the ground. CTFR also gave the children an impressive fire safety demonstration using references to their unique housing configurations.



It seems that "drop, cover, and roll" is also taught to children in South Africa. Our thanks go out to Chief Ignatius Smart, Cape Town Fire's Head of Fire and Life Safety, for hosting Atlanta Fire Rescue. The fire rescue family is indeed global.

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