

For immediate release

Released by the Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa on November 18, 2008

Ivory Park informal settlement targeted for a safety education campaign

“A recent intervention survey conducted by the Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa (PASASA) between July and September this year showed that there are about 77 reported cases of paraffin / chemical poisoning and about 34 burn injuries from different energy sources in the area of Ivory Park. This is an area of informal housing settlements where 99% of the households use paraffin for cooking, heating and lighting because this is an energy source they can afford”, says Joe Baleka, a Community Project Officer from the association.

The survey conducted this year by PASASA; show that these incidents mostly affect children between the ages of 2-10 years. On November 19, PASASA together with its partners ENGEN, Tshwarisanang Environmental Pro-re-active Safety Mentors (TEPRASM) will be launching a community safety awareness campaign to reduce the injuries. The launch will take place at Ward 77 Community Hall starting at 10h00. The survey results will also be released at this launch.

Following the launch, PASASA will embark on a 5 day educational Door-to-door campaign targeting informal settlements, schools, crèches, clinics and other institutions of importance that will run from Thursday until the following Monday. Mr. Baleka added, “We want to raise the profile of these issues so that residents of the area can take ownership of these challenges and put in place mitigation plans to protect their families and households. We will also train volunteers within this community on paraffin safety, indoor pollution, burn treatment and other emergency matters”.

Along with all the other partners invited to the launch, speakers will include Thandi Manqana Corporate Social Investment Co-ordinator from ENGEN and Aletta Rautenbach from Emergency Management Services - City of Johannesburg.

The Paraffin Safety Association is calling all community members of Ivory Park, ward committees, traditional healers, clinics, spaza shop dealers, teachers and any other interested stakeholders to attend because we will also establish a Community Working Forum that will be working together with government and other interested stakeholders.

END

Issued by: The Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa

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