

## **Multi-vehicle pile-up as a result of smoke from a badly controlled fire, which reduced visibility: Duma on the ground and helps the victims**

Media Statement by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements, Siboniso Duma

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Utrecht R34, eMadlangeni Local Municipality: We have internalized the fact that with the dry winter months upon us, badly controlled fires are a reality.

Our highly efficient team from the Road Traffic Inspectorate is currently directing traffic following a multi-vehicle pile-up caused by smoke from a badly controlled fire.

We request motorists along the R34, Midway towards Utrecht Town to reduce speed as the scene of the accident is still active.

Fortunately there are no fatalities except for two people who were seriously injured.

We acknowledge the importance of controlled fires as part of land management and for other purposes.

However, we plead with those involved, especially along the freeway and other routes, to alert RTI and traffic departments in various municipalities.

When approaching uncontrolled fires, we request motorists to do the following:

- If visibility becomes very poor, don't attempt to drive through thick smoke or flame.
- Many accidents occur when drivers fail to stop and end up colliding with stationary vehicles.
- Reduce speed to avoid head-on collisions with other vehicles attempting to drive through from the opposite direction.
- Put your headlights and hazards on so that you are as visible as possible to other vehicles, particularly emergency workers and firefighters.

Ends

Issued by the MEC for Transport and Human Settlements

Enquiries

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