

SOCIAL MEDIA COMPROMISES SAFETY OF EMS WORKERS

THE Health and Other Service Personnel Trade Union of South Africa (Hospersa) would like to alert Emergency Medical Services (EMS) members about the dangers of using social media while performing their duties.

It has been reported that EMS workers are becoming more at risk to attacks through posts they share on social media platforms. It is said that some EMS members post their activities when they arrive on scene including their location, condition of the patient as well as the hospital they are taking the patient to.

This poses a serious danger to their lives as the perpetrators are also on social media and can see these posts. The perpetrators can follow the patient to inflict more harm, especially in areas with high levels of gang violence and where EMS attacks have been rife, such as in the Western Cape.

EMS members are urged to refrain from posting their job activities on social media platforms as posted information. This can compromise the safety of the crew, as well as that of staff members at the receiving facility.

We have seen an alarming increase in the rate of EMS attacks since last year where staff members have been robbed at

gunpoint, mishandled over their personal belongings and the stoning of EMS vehicles. This is no longer only in the Western Cape, and there have also been reports from Free State, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

We believe that by adhering to this simple principle will help to assist with stopping the scourge of these attacks.

Hospersa continues to engage with the employer and other affected parties over safety issues pertaining to EMS workers working environment.

We urge EMS members to report any wrongdoings or incidents to their respective Provincial Offices on the numbers provided below.

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To stay up to date with feedback from Hospersa we urge all members to follow us on Twitter (@hospersaonline) and join our Facebook group (hospersa online) as soon as possible.



All updates and newsletters are also placed on our website (www.hospersa.co.za)



10 Good Reasons to Join Hospersa

1. Individual indemnity cover of up to **two million rand** per member
2. Death benefit of **R3 990** for principal members after 6 months of membership
3. **Professional legal assistance** for labour-related issues at the Bargaining Council, CCMA and Labour Court
4. Collective bargaining **negotiating salaries** and other substantive conditions of employment
5. Trained, democratically-elected **shop stewards**
6. Representation at **disciplinary hearings**, grievance procedures and incapacity processes
7. Representation on **various committees**, including Employment Equity and OHS
8. **General Meetings** with members
9. **Bilateral meetings with management**
10. Service provider benefits including **discounts on services** and stays at holiday resorts

If you have not yet joined Hospersa, please contact your Shop Steward or the Provincial Office (see below).

Eastern Cape (043-722-3776)
KwaZulu-Natal (033-342-6847)
Northern Cape (053-842-2001)

HOSPERSA OFFICES
Free State (051-448-4659)
Limpopo (015-295-3272)
North-West (018-462-3692)

Gauteng (011-791-2243)
Mpumalanga (013-752-6199)
Western Cape (021-591-9283)