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PARK RANGERS NAB MUGGERS AT SIGNAL HILL

THE Cape Peninsula National Park (CPNP) has cautioned all visitors to Signal Hill to be on the lookout for muggers in the area. This follows a recent incident in which a team of CPNP field rangers saved several tourists from a would-be mugging.

"Signal Hill is part of the national park and the area is patrolled by field rangers whose responsibilities include firefighting duties, law enforcement and visitor support," says Hilton Blumeris, conservation section ranger for northern section.

"A few Sundays ago, at about 13h30, five of our field rangers were patrolling the Signal Hill precinct on foot when they received a tip-off about four suspects planning to rob tourists along the pathway to Lion's Head," says Blumeris.

"The field rangers - Deon Davids, Deon Pieterse and Clarence Human, Andries Adonis and Daniel Engelbrecht - immediately staked out the area and started monitoring the movements of the four men.

"After an hour or so, two of the suspects accosted three unsuspecting tourists coming up the pathway. One of the tourists screamed and our rangers immediately sprang into action. We gave chase, eventually arresting all four suspects who were armed with knives and bottlenecks. Fortunately, the tourists were unharmed.

"The criminals were taken to the nearest police station and appeared in court a few days later. They have been refused bail pending further investigation. It appears that two of the suspects had previously served prison sentences for robbery and theft out of motor vehicles.

"Crime is an everyday phenomenon in all large metropolises but we are working closely with all law enforcement agencies to keep the Cape Peninsula National Park a crime-free area," says Blumeris.

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