**PRESS RELEASE**

Confined space services and training developed to improve worker safety

***08 April, 2014:*** *Accidents and negligence in confined space operations are challenges that leading rope access specialists Skyriders aims to resolve, through its newly launched specialist confined space service, which includes confined space rescue, standby, training and consulting expertise.*

A confined space is defined as an enclosed, restricted or limited space that includes any equipment, machinery or object in which dangerous liquids or concentration of gas, vapour, dust or fumes may be present. Skyriders confined space specialist **Rudolf Lubbe** notes that confined space expertise is important in multiple industries including but not limited to: municipalities, construction, oil and gas, and power generation.

“Numerous workers are injured on an annual basis as a result of exposure in confined spaces. One of the biggest problems is inadequate training and experience to effectively deal with confined space dangers. It is not only about how many people have been trained in confined space work, but how many have the expertise to work in confined spaces and the compulsory back-up of a trained confined space rescue team,” he explains.

Lubbe points out that there is a large demand for these services in a diverse range of industry sectors – both in South Africa and abroad. “The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHASA) includes specific regulations for confined spaces. Companies and employers involved in confined space work must include a site-specific confined space code of conduct in safety plans.”

Skyriders, in conjunction with Height Wise Training Academy – a dedicated work at height training provider that is owned by Skyriders – plans to offer accredited confined space training in the near future.

"I am confident that Skyriders will provide excellent confined space services, as our teams of technicians are highly qualified, trained and boast many years of relevant experience in the field,” Lubbe concludes.

***Ends***

**Notes to the Editor**There are numerous photographs specific to this press release. Please visit <http://media.ngage.co.za> and click the Skyriders link.

**About Skyriders**Skyriders (Pty) Ltd, established in 1998, is a leader in the South African rope access industry, providing cost- and time-saving solutions to clients in the power generation and petrochemical industries who require rope access aided inspection, NDT and maintenance work to be done in difficult to reach, high-up locations.

**Skyriders Contact**Mike Zinn
Phone: (011) 312 1418

Email: mike@ropeaccess.co.za
Web: [www.ropeaccess.co.za](http://www.ropeaccess.co.za)

**Media Contact**Kelly Farthing
NGAGE Public Relations
Phone: (011) 867-7763
Fax: 086 512 3352
Cell: 072 377 5000

Email: kelly@ngage.co.za
Web: [www.ngage.co.za](http://www.ngage.co.za)

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