

State Emergency Service

Media Release



Sunday, 17 May, 2015

Tea Tree Gully triumphs again in rescue challenge

After two days of gruelling competition, Tea Tree Gully State Emergency Service (SES) Unit has again triumphed in this year's SES State Rescue Challenge.

The convincing win in the challenge, which was held at the Country Fire Service (CFS) State Training Centre at Brukunga in the Adelaide Hills over the past two days, means Tea Tree Gully has won the biennial event 12 consecutive times since 1992.

As the South Australian winners, Tea Tree Gully will travel to Canberra in September this year to represent the state in the National Disaster Rescue Challenge.

The Tea Tree Gully team of Team Leader David Zakrzewski, Deputy Team Leader Phil Hosking, First Aid Officer Matt Skeldon, Viki Paxtyn, Emily Stock and Michael Gray scored a total of 1215 points in the challenge.

Second, with 1044 points, was a composite team comprising SES members from Edinburgh and Tea Tree Gully units. Yankalilla SES Unit took third place with 988 points, narrowly edging out a composite team from Yorke and Mid North SES districts with 974.

State Rescue Challenge Chief Judge Trevor Arnold said the standard of the competition at this year's challenge was particularly high, with all eight teams who competed further developing their skills and learning to work under intense pressure.

"The various emergency scenarios we put together for them really tested every team's ability to problem solve and work efficiently and safely," Mr Arnold said.

This year's scenarios included a mass casualty exercise involving a plane crash, extricating a dummy trapped between two cars, using sandbags to protect evidence at a crime scene and an evidence search inside a blacked out building.

The SRC's Event Manager Mike Baker said staging this year's challenge had been a great team effort.

"Everybody, from the CFS and St Johns through to the various support staff and volunteer members, pitched in and worked hard to make sure the event was a big success," Mr Baker said.

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