



# Media Release

## Marine rescue exercise tomorrow at Victor Harbor

Friday, 18 November 2016

Mariners in the Victor Harbor area may see an increase in rescue vessel activity when marine search and rescue agencies conduct a multi-agency exercise tomorrow (Saturday, 19 November), beginning at 8.30am.

Up to eight boats and around 60 personnel from the Victor Harbor-Goolwa Sea Rescue Squadron, SA Sea Rescue Squadron - Wirrina Flotilla, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard – Kangaroo Island Flotilla, Surf Life Saving SA and SA Police (SAPOL), will be involved in the exercise which has been designed to practise and validate existing search and rescue protocols, and ensure interoperability and coordination between the various agencies.

Manager of Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) in South Australia Mr Darryl Wright said tomorrow's exercise was part of an annual exercise program conducted regionally, under the auspices of the State Marine Rescue Committee.

"The exercise program is designed to bring marine rescue organisations together in a coordinated response to a search and rescue scenario to ensure that they are adequately prepared to respond should the need arise," Mr Wright said.

"The waters off the Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island have been the scene of a number of marine tragedies over the years. With increased boating activity as we move into summer, it's important that rescue agencies are well prepared to respond when required.

"This is an extremely valuable opportunity to have volunteers from marine rescue agencies in the area come together under the coordination of specialists from SAPOL to validate their training and ensure that if an emergency was to arise the response is efficient and effective," Mr Wright said.

The exercise will be coordinated by SAPOL from the Victor Harbor-Goolwa Sea Rescue Squadron base at Victor Harbor.

Members of the public and mariners will likely see an increase in marine activity around the Bluff Boat Ramp and adjacent waters between 8.30am and 1pm tomorrow.

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