

# MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## Emergency response skills to be tested at Stanley

An emergency scenario at Stanley on **Saturday 23 March**, involving fire and multiple “casualties” will wrap up a three-day emergency skills course for around 32 University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School medical students.

In the lead-up tomorrow (**Friday 22 March**) a series of theoretical seminars, complemented by practical skills sessions, will be held at Riverbend Youth Centre near Smithton.

Saturday’s emergency field scenario will give students the opportunity to test their knowledge and skills, while working alongside experts in emergency procedures and response.

The full-scale, time critical, multi-casualty scenario will also be used by local emergency services as a training exercise, and an opportunity to review management protocols.

This learning opportunity is made possible due to a strong partnership between the University’s Rural Clinical School and the Circular Head Council and community, and complements students’ undergraduate learning in the area of emergency medicine.

Course coordinator of the Rural Clinical School, Associate Professor Peter Arvier, said that the emergency drill will give medical students the opportunity to put into practice the techniques and principles learnt during the course.

“An essential part of this exercise is students gaining an understanding of how different emergency services work together – and in particular how volunteer services respond to these events in smaller, more isolated communities,” Assoc Prof Arvier said.

Emergency service personnel from across the North-West coast, local doctors and the Smithton District Hospital will also use the scenario as a training exercise.

Assoc Prof Arvier said the Rural Clinical School greatly appreciated the generous support and expertise provided to the event by the Smithton health community, local SES crews, the Tasmanian Ambulance and Fire Services and local police.

“This support and the strong partnership the University has with the Circular Head Council and community means we can provide excellent learning opportunities in rural and remote medicine for our students,” Assoc Prof Arvier said.

**For more information:** Contact Therese Evans at the RCS on (03) 6430 4555 or [Therese.Evans@utas.edu.au](mailto:Therese.Evans@utas.edu.au)

### **Media opportunities**

The media is invited to photograph or film at the following venues

#### **Friday 22 March, 9am-1pm**

Hands-on Skills Stations at Riverbend Youth Centre (*directions below*).

#### **Saturday 23 March, 11am**

Mock disaster scenario at Stanley Wharf.

#### **Directions to Riverbend Youth Centre (from Burnie)**

Bass Highway (A2) towards Smithton (approximately 1 hr). 2 kms before entering the town of Smithton, there is a large Gunns complex on the left – take the next turn left AFTER Gunns, signed to Marrawah/Arthur River (A2) and also to Tall Timbers/Dismal Swamp. Continue along this road approx. 2kms until you reach a roundabout. Turn left. Continue along the C217 (Scotchtown Rd becomes the B22 Edith Creek Rd) for approx 5kms. Riverbend Youth Centre is situated on the right, signed and very identifiable. There is parking in front of the building. ALLOW APPROX 1.5HRS TRAVEL TIME FROM BURNIE.

#### **Information Released by:**

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