

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Emergency Disaster Scenario to test medical students**

A mock disaster scenario will be just one of the challenging situations facing 32 undergraduate medical students and local emergency services during an intensive Emergency Skills Course to be held at **Smithton** from late Thursday 27 September – until midday Saturday 29 September.

The course is being organised by the University's Rural Clinical School. It aims to enhance students' experience in emergency responses in the context of a rural community isolated from tertiary health services.

Course coordinator and RCS Senior Lecturer in Rural Medical Practice, Dr Peter Arvier, said that specialist practitioners, UTAS academics, local GPs and hospital staff would work with emergency service personnel to deliver a series of theoretical knowledge-based sessions complemented by practical skills-based sessions over the three days.

The course will culminate in a full-scale mock emergency scenario happening on Saturday morning on the banks of the Duck River near the boat ramp.

“It will be as realistic as possible with participants having little idea of what is to happen,” Dr Arvier said.

“Students will have to react as if a real event was actually evolving. Emergency service personnel, local doctors and the Smithton District Hospital will use the scenario as a training exercise, and an opportunity to review management protocols.”

Trauma management, working in environmental extremes, transporting patients and the management of snake bite will also be covered in the course.

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

“Their involvement allows students to gain skills in critical response and the management of trauma under the supervision of experts,” he said. “The University’s strong partnership with the Circular Head community offers expanded learning opportunities in rural and remote medicine for our students.”

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