

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: THURSDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 2010

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

---



## Med students test their skills in “emergency”

An emergency scenario at Smithton this Saturday (**25 September 2010**) involving fire and multiple “casualties” will wrap up a three-day Emergency Skills Course for 33 University of Tasmania Rural Clinical School medical students.

A series of theoretical sessions will be held at Riverbend Youth Centre tomorrow (Friday 24 September 2010). The “emergency” scenario will follow on Saturday.

Saturday morning’s emergency scenario will give students the opportunity to bring together their knowledge and skills while working alongside experts in emergency procedures and response.

Emergency service personnel, from across the North West coast, local doctors and the Smithton District Hospital will use the scenario as a training exercise and an opportunity to review management protocols.

Course coordinator and Associate Head of the Rural Clinical School, Associate Professor Peter Arvier, said the full-scale, time critical, multi-casualty scenario will give medical students the opportunity to “put into practice” 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.

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.

“Their involvement allows students to gain skills in critical response and the management of trauma under the supervision of experts,” he said.

“The strong partnership UTAS 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: (03) 6430 5918**

## **Key photo/filming opportunities for media:**

**Friday 24 September: 9.30am – 11am, 12 – 1pm, 1.50 – 2.40pm**

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

**Saturday 25 September: 9am - 10.30am**

Mock Disaster Scenario at Mella Road (directions below). Please note the best visuals will be happening close to 9am. Reporters and photographers may be asked to keep at a safe distance during the initial phase, but will still be able to obtain good photos.

### **Information Released by:**

**The Media Office, University of Tasmania**

**Phone: (03) 6226 2691 Mobile: 0447 537 375**

**Email: [Media.Office@utas.edu.au](mailto:Media.Office@utas.edu.au)**

## **Emergency course directions:**

### **Friday event – skills sessions 9.30am onwards, Riverbend Centre**

**Directions to Riverbend Youth Centre** (from Burnie): Bass Highway (A2) towards Smithton (approximately 1 hr). 2kms before entering the town of Smithton, there is a large Gunn's 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 2 kms till you reach a roundabout. Turn left. Continue along the C217 (Scotchtown road becomes the B22 Edith Creek Road) for approx 5 kms. Riverbend Youth Centre is on the right, look for the sign. There is parking in front of the building.

**Saturday event – disaster scenario 9am – 10.30am** (Mella Road, Smithton) travel on A2 Bass Highway to Smithton, continue on A2 Bass Highway past Smithton and take turn off on to Mella Road, travel 400 metres down road. Allow approx 1.5hrs travel time from Burnie.