

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

DATE: THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **Smithton “emergency” to test medical students**

A flaming car wreck will set the scene for a mock emergency scenario involving 32 Rural Clinical School medical students and local Circular Head emergency service personnel on Saturday (27 September) in Smithton.

The dramatic scene will involve a number of trauma “patients” and test the critical response of local fire, police, ambulance and SES services as they work alongside local doctors, Smithton Hospital staff, emergency specialists and the students.

The simulated emergency incident will wrap up an intensive three-day Emergency Skills Course being organised by the University’s Rural Clinical School at Smithton from late today (Thursday) until midday Saturday.

Course coordinator and Associate Head of the Rural Clinical School, Associate Professor Peter Arvier, said the scenario would provide a spectacular and realistic finale to a series of theory and practical skills-based sessions over the two days.

“The students will have little pre-warning of what to expect and 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.”

Ass/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.



## **EMERGENCY COURSE DIRECTIONS**

### **FRIDAY EVENT – Skills sessions 9.15am – 12.30pm:**

#### **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 **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 situated on the right, signed and very identifiable. There is parking in front of the building.

### **SATURDAY EVENT – Disaster Scenario 9am – 9.30am**

#### **Directions to Dolomite Quarry, Havelock Street, Smithton (from Burnie)**

If travelling from Burnie, as above – turning **LEFT** to Marrawah/Tall Timbers/Dismal Swamp and continue approx 2kms to roundabout.

**Take the 3<sup>rd</sup> exit to Nelson Street** and travel for another 2km. Take the **second LEFT** onto **Havelock Street.**

Continue through the gate, **straight ahead across the quarry** to the “disaster” scene.