

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS delivers world-class USAR training to interstate fire services

Wednesday, 5 July 2017

For the first time, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is putting interstate firefighters through their paces to deliver world-class Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) training.

Twenty Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) firefighters and one Ambulance Tasmania (AT) paramedic have flown to Adelaide to undertake a 48-hour exercise being hosted and delivered by the MFS at its Angle Park training facility.

They'll face a hazardous mock disaster scene involving an earthquake measuring 6.8 on the Richter scale, with collapsed buildings, trapped casualties and disrupted gas, water and power services.

The exercise began on Tuesday, 4 July and will run through until noon Thursday. **Media are invited to the exercise site for interviews and filming opportunities on Wednesday, 5 July at 11 am.** (Location: 480 Grand Junction Rd, Angle Park.)

While the 48-hour exercise is underway, the MFS is also hosting seven Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service (NTFRS) firefighters who are completing a USAR skills development program with the MFS.

The NT firefighters will be perfecting their technical rescue skills in concrete cutting, timber shoring, heavy lifting and trench rescue.

The selection of the MFS to host and deliver USAR training to interstate fire services is a compliment to the organisation's high standard of USAR training and realistic training facilities.

Background

International disasters such as earthquakes in recent decades prompted the development of USAR capabilities in developed countries more than 20 years ago.

USAR teams generally comprise emergency services personnel, paramedics, engineers, doctors, canine handlers and forensic specialists and are designed to be self-sufficient while deploying to disasters across the world.

In Australia, every state and territory has a USAR team that is trained to international standards and able to travel interstate or overseas to respond to a significant incident at little notice.

In South Australia, the MFS develops and maintains South Australia's USAR capability, which comprises members from the MFS, SES, Defence SA, SA Health and Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI).

Quotes attributable to SA Metropolitan Fire Service Station Officer, Paul Winter

When disaster strikes, USAR teams from across Australia and the world must deploy and work together seamlessly. That's why it's vital that USAR teams within Australia have the opportunity to train together.

We're pleased to welcome 21 Tasmanian and seven Northern Territory firefighters and paramedics to Adelaide this week where they'll receive USAR training from the MFS.

The relationships, knowledge and skills developed this week will contribute to an integrated emergency response when MFS and interstate USAR teams deploy to the same disaster scenes together in future.

Quote attributable to Tasmania Fire Service District Officer, Mark Dobson

Australia's USAR teams rely on inter-jurisdictional support from across the country, including shared training opportunities.

Training exercises such as the one we're undertaking in Adelaide this week ensure that when a major disaster occurs, state and territory USAR teams can integrate easily due to using similar equipment, techniques and terminology that is designed to enhance interoperability.

For media enquiries please telephone the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

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