

SES volunteers seize learning opportunities

Pilbara State Emergency Service (SES) fielded a team in the National Disaster Rescue Competition (NDRC) held in Adelaide recently and came away with some valuable hands on experience.



The WA SES Team perform a ferris wheel rescue at the NDRC in Adelaide.

Team Coordinator Keith Squibb said there were many opportunities for learning and development at the two day event.

“Coming from a remote mining area, the Pilbara team had limited exposure to some of the scenarios posed at the rescue competition,” Keith said.

“It was a real learning curve for these regionally based volunteers, who most often find themselves confronted with road crash rescues and storm or cyclone damage.

“The varied exercises were all worthwhile and our competitors appreciated the chance to show what they could do.”

Keith said the WA team recorded second place in the heavy lifting component.

“This was a great result, and I know all team members gained much from the opportunity to compete in such a high profile event,” he said.

“It was also terrific to meet SES volunteers from interstate and share knowledge, ideas, techniques and fellowship.”

Keith said shortly after the team had returned to Karratha, life imitated art when the SES received a call out to a rescue where a concrete slab had trapped a construction worker.

“Several elements of the incident were similar to what the team had experienced in the disaster competition, and I’m sure they thought about that as they performed this real life rescue,” he said.



Pilbara SES volunteers who competed in the National Disaster Rescue Competition (l-r front): Rosie Strong, Deborah Napier, Rob Graham and (l-r back): Keith Squibb, Nathan Herholdt, Matt Bager, Mick Napier and Ian Ellis with District Manager Pilbara West Peter Cameron.