



High angle rescue technician training and challenge at SAESI 2017

The high angle rescue technician (HAT) training and challenge was held at SAESI 2017 with teams from the South African Air Force (SAAF), City of Cape Town, City of Mangaung, City of eThekweni and City of Ekurhuleni participating in the event. The HAT training and challenge took place at NASREC, Johannesburg, was sponsored by HeightSafety and Waco/SGB Cape and was championed by Charles Royine. T-shirts for the judges were sponsored by Fremtac Fire and Rescue.

The challenge consisted of two categories namely the Advanced Category (High Angle 2 qualified) and the Intermediate Category (High Angle 1 qualified).

Training and challenge

The two-day training programme included a day of theoretical training and a day of practical training exercises, fine tuning the rescue teams' skills in the various high angle challenge scenarios. Training topics included working at height:

fall arrest, travel restrict and work position; back tie anchors; reinforcing the marginal anchors and floating anchors; safe belay systems TWPB vs 540 belay device vs MPD vs Petzl ID D20; a uniform national curriculum for Advanced Rope Rescue (High Angle 2); legislation; acts; local and NFPA codes relative to rope rescue in the fire and rescue services; SAQA Rigging Unit Standard 229997 and its relevance to urban technical rope rescue and industrial rope access and the fire and rescue service.

