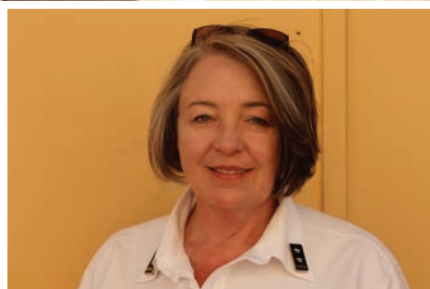




Vehicle extrication training and challenge at SAESI 2017



SAESI 2017 held at NASREC, Johannesburg, saw teams from City of Cape Town, Midvaal Municipality, Eden District Municipality, City of Mangaung, Msunduzi Municipality, City of eThekweni, City of Ekurhuleni and Cape Town Metro Rescue participate in the vehicle extrication training and challenge. The champion for vehicle extrication was Theresa Geldenhuys and it was endorsed and supported by the South African Medical Rescue Organisation (SAMRO), a member of the World Rescue Organisation (WRO).

The vehicle extrication training took place two days prior to the challenge and was held at the City of Johannesburg's Rietfontein Training Centre. Training topics included risk assessment, physical and mechanical entrapment, vehicle stabilisation, international trauma life support (ITLS)

approach, new vehicle technology and hand tools including high-lift jacks. SAMRO also held its annual Assessor's Workshop.

Challenge

Teams consisted of six members where one member was designated as the team captain/leader and one member as the team medic.

The challenges were based around simulated rescue scenarios or 'evolutions'. The teams were briefed on the actual scenarios for each evolution on the day. These included the 'standard/limited rescue' where teams had to assess the casualty and identify the correct pathway for extrication, whilst recognising the limitation of the tools available. To achieve success teams needed to work efficiently and manage all the resources at their disposal to complete extrication of all

casualties within the available time frame.

In the 'medical emergency rescue (rapid)', teams had to recognise the immediate lifesaving needs of the casualty and to achieve success, needed to demonstrate a balance between efficiency, safety and urgency in order to achieve the task within the prescribed time frame.

In the 'complex rescue/evolution', sufficient space needed to be created for medical assessment and intervention, with the casualties release/packaging relative to their mechanism of injury. Teams were expected to triage the casualties and identify the medical priority for extrication and to be successful, the teams needed to work within the full three phases of vehicle extrication rescue to affect a thorough release and removal of both casualties. ▶

