

NDRC 2024 – WA SES TEAM SYDNEY BOUND

State Emergency Service and Territory Emergency Service teams from across Australia will be in Sydney at the end of the month for 2024 National Disaster Rescue Challenge.

After a late start, the preparation for the NDRC is now in full swing for the WA Team which is made up of metropolitan based SES volunteers. The team have been busy training in various capabilities to be as well prepared as they can.

Local Managers from all metropolitan units were contacted and Expressions of Interest sought from interested volunteers. In some cases specific skill sets were preferred so the team can be in the best position to participate in the challenge against some of the other states/territories.

The team had to be finalised in July due to some of the administrative requirements with the selected team members being made up from the Gosnells, Canning-South Perth and Kalamunda SES units. The team are keen to build on the results achieved in 2022 when WA hosted the event.

SES TEAM MEMBERS

- Mark Geary previous Local Manager Gosnells SES
- Chereese Green Local Manager Gosnells SES
- Megan Davies First Aider extraordinaire Gosnells SES
- Warren Taylor Training Manager Kalamunda SES
- Ming Lim Vertical Rescue TA Unit SES
- Kettesse Hansen Search Team Leader VR and Flood Boat crew member Unit SES
- Melissa Baker VR and flood Boat crew member Unit SES

Rob ‘Smarty’ Smart Wanneroo-Joondalup SES will also attend the challenge, by invitation, as the WA representative evaluator and will travel with the team.

PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGE

The host state has shared the equipment list with some interesting inclusions and the team have been scrutinising the list, working out what are the strengths of the team and, importantly, what equipment they may not be familiar with.

TRAINING AND TEAM BUILDING

Training is conducted weekly on Saturdays and the fundamentals were certainly a focus in the first few weeks with training now being directed towards scenarios that the team might see during the event in Sydney. Some of the training has included – power tools, flood boat operations, rescues from heights, mass casualty management, incident management, first aid and decision making.

LEADERSHIP

Mark Geary from Gosnells SES is the appointed Team Leader, having accepted the role reluctantly. The team and Team Manager overwhelmingly saw Mark’s leadership, analytical skills and decision making a key component in bringing the team together as a cohesive unit and to compete. Mark has participated in varying roles in previous NDRCs including Team Manager, Team Member and Stand Manager in 2022.

The team wants to acknowledge the FES Commissioner for the support as the team prepares. The Metro Natural Hazard District Officers have assisted in team planning and SES volunteers from various units have assisted with the development of scenarios and training ideas, in particular Rach and Dan who have committed time in cold and wet conditions to test the resolve of the team. ***Good luck all, Todd Pender, Natural Hazards DO, Team Manager***