



ROAD CRASH RESCUE CHALLENGES



Each Road Crash Rescue Team is made of 6 team members. Normally this consists of 5 Firefighters and 1 medic. The positions are: 1 Team Leader, 2 x Tool operators, 2 x Safety's and 1 Medic. Each member has their specific duties within the team to extricate casualties from set up road crash scenarios using vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles and tucks poles, drain pipes, concrete blocks etc.

The competitions are set up with 3 different events. These events require teams to utilise specialist tools (including the 'Jaws of Life') and equipment and use designed techniques to extricate casualties from the vehicles. Each event is design to have similar scenarios with similar entrapments or casualties to make the competition level for all teams competing. The teams then have a time limit and are assessed on a number of criteria standards to all scores. Generally there is a Control Assessor to for the Team Leader, a Medical Assessor for the Medic and a Technical Assessor for the Tool Operators and Safety's. The 3 events are the Controlled Event, the Entrapped Event and the Immediate or Rapid Event.



The Controlled Event consists of 2 casualties. 1 casualty is usually more critical than the other and either casualty may be pinned under or between an obstacles. In this event 1 of the Safety's becomes a second medic and deals with the less critical casualty. The medic will tend to the most critical casualty once the 2 have been prioritised. The team leader then formulates an extrication plan and the team works together to extricate both casualties within the designated time limit of 30 minutes.

The Entrapped Event speaks for itself. There is a single casualty with some part or parts of the body trapped by the vehicle. The entrapment varies from feet being trapped, legs trapped, arms caught between objects or the vehicle has crumbled around the casualty and they are trapped within. Once the degree of entrapment is established, the medic will get into a position to treat the casualty (usually within the vehicle so as not to impede any tool work) and a plan to free the entrapment and extricate the casualty established, the team will work to the plan using planned techniques. This event also has a designated time limit of 30 minutes.





The Immediate or Rapid Event is the event where the casualty is time critical. This means they need to be extricated as quickly and safely as possible. This event has a time limit of 20 minutes and usually requires quick decision making, fast medical assessment and efficient tool work to extricate the casualty. This event requires utmost teamwork and communication to score effectively.

The assessors look at everything from communication, safe working practises, casualty management, effective tool operation and techniques and medical assessment and actions of the medic. These scores are pooled together to give a team their overall score for the event. Each event has its placings with an overall winner reached by accumulating the teams score in each event into a final overall score. Awards are also given to the best ranked medic, team leader and technical team.



These competitions not only allow the teams and their members to compete but to learn new techniques and improve their skills in the real world as this is part of what firefighters and ambulance officers deal with as part of their day to day jobs. With these skills able to be passed on to other crews, the community benefits, and with this knowledge, better results can come from tragic circumstances.



TEAM CAIRNS



The Cairns Road Crash Rescue Team has been competing for over 12 year in Road Rescue Challenges and Competitions. There have been a few changes since the first team, including team members, rules, equipment and tools, but the objective of these challenges has stayed the same. To learn, improve and teach new skills and techniques associated with traffic incidents. Using these skills in real life situations is important as these incidents form a large part of daily jobs for firefighters and ambulance officers.

As TEAM CAIRNS, we pride ourselves on our skills, teamwork and professionalism when it comes to Road Crash Rescue competitions. We are always looking to learn and develop new skills and techniques to use and pass on to other teams and crews while still having a very competitive nature when it comes competition time.

TEAM CAIRNS has enjoyed success at regional level being undefeated since 1999. At state level TEAM CAIRNS has had a strong showing lately usually finishing in the top 2 in the state. 2012 has been the strongest year for TEAM CAIRNS to date as we have been crowned champions at regional and state level and have just taken the Australasian Titles held in Hobart, Tasmania. The Australasian titles had 21 teams from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Hong Kong with TEAM CAIRNS being crowned Australasian Champions. Other achievements during the competition included 3rd best Medic (Gareth Colman), 2nd Best Technical Team and Best Team Leader (Ian Fulton). We now are off to the World Titles, representing Australasia against teams from England, United States, and Germany to name a few.

The current TEAM CAIRNS line up consists of Team Leader ó Ian Fulton, Medic ó Gareth Colman, Tool operators ó Ian Lawless and Darcy Magee and Safetys ó Shane Given and Michael Balmer. This is the team that will represent Cairns, Queensland and Australasia on the world Road Crash Rescue stage.