



Media Release

ACTSES to host annual navigation battle

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ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) volunteers will tomorrow join forces in the bush in a race against time to test their training in a navigational battle in the bushland at Kowen Forest.

“Navigation Canberra, (NAVCAN) is a fantastic opportunity for ACTSES Volunteers and other emergency service participants to test their search and navigational skills.” ACTSES Chief Officer Tony Graham said.

“75 competitors from 17 teams will be involved at tomorrow’s event,” he said.

“Volunteers and staff from the ACT State Emergency Service, ACT Rural Fire Service and the Emergency Services Agency will compete.

“We are also pleased to have for the first time, interstate rivalry with members from the NSW State Emergency Service involved with units from Bungendore and Goulburn.”

Teams will be issued with a map and a list of checkpoints to mark across a pre-set course through the Kowen Forest. Some participants will be expected to walk through the bushland up to a distance of 20 kilometres during the event.

“As well as emergency storm and flood assistance, volunteers from the ACTSES are also at times called upon to assist ACT Policing during various search and rescue operations,” ACTSES Chief Officer Tony Graham said.

“Tomorrow’s NAVCAN will be extremely beneficial for new and experienced ACTSES volunteers as it provides an opportunity to learn and showcase some of the many skills required when providing crucial support to other emergency agencies,” he said.

All participants will be briefed on potential hazards, weather conditions, time constraints as well as terrain and environmental information prior to the commencement of NAVCAN.

The exercise will commence following a briefing at the picnic area from 10am with an expected finish at approximately 5pm tomorrow.