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Media Release

ACTSES compete in National Challenge

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ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) volunteers from the Gungahlin Unit will compete against other emergency service workers from across Australia in a national disaster rescue challenge in Victoria this weekend.

“The National Disaster Rescue Challenge is a fantastic opportunity for the six volunteers representing the territory to display their extraordinary skills that are vital in times of emergencies,” ACTSES Chief Officer Tony Graham said.

“The Gungahlin Unit won the territory disaster rescue challenge which was held in June earlier this year at the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Hume Training Centre,” he said.

“The win has provided the Unit the opportunity to represent the ACT in Ballarat this weekend.

“The Australian Council of State Emergency Services manage the biannual national challenge and the Gungahlin SES Unit will compete against most jurisdictions from across Australia in a controlled rescue environment.”

The National Disaster Rescue Challenge tests leadership and practical skills along with first aid and storm damage operations.

“Only this week we saw how vital the ACTSES is for the community with 37 calls for help due to the wet weather conditions the territory has experienced,” ACTSES Chief Officer Tony Graham said.

“As well as executing emergency response operations for storms and floods, the ACT State Emergency Service provides assistance to ambulance, fire and police services during a range of incidents or emergencies,” he said.

The six Gungahlin SES Unit members are: Andy Williams (team leader), Steve Saillard, Fiona White, Kate Greeney, Brendan Spence and Scott Nicholls.

The National SES Disaster Rescue Challenge commences Saturday with two days of competition concluding on Sunday.