



Metropolitan wins first aid competition

Newcastle (Australia), 26 September 2022 –

Snake bites, chemical burns, and pedestrians needing treatment after being hit by a car were just some of the scenarios facing teams at the Coal Services Northern Region First Aid Competition held in Newcastle on Friday, 23 September 2022.

Eight teams competed at the event, the first time the competition had been held since 2019. Peabody's Metropolitan 2 team were named overall winners only narrowly taking the win over Metropolitan 1.

Kirsty Bates, General Manager – Health, explained that the first aid competition focusses specifically on first aid and isn't limited to mines rescue responders.

"The first aid competition focuses on domestic first aid scenarios, the types of accidents that you might come across at home, at the workplace or in the community. Teams have to respond using limited equipment, for example a basic first aid kit that you would find in these situations, until further paramedic or medical assistance arrives."

Lachlan Grant, Northern Operations Manager said the event is an opportunity for teams to test the skills they learn through first aid training at Mines Rescue.

'First aid qualifications should be renewed every three years, while refresher training in CPR should be done annually. The scenarios here today test these skills including how they give direction to bystanders who may be able to assist, as well as their handover to paramedics – all of which can be vital in serious situations.'

In each scenario, teams were judged on how well they worked together with limited equipment and how well they responded to each situation, as well as their first aid proficiency. While the day has a strong practical skills focus, teams are also tested on their general first aid knowledge, anatomy and CPR.

Metropolitan 2 team captain Warren Kirk commended his team for their efforts.

'I'd like to thank Coal Services and in particular the team at Newcastle Mines Rescue for putting on such a fun comp; the atmosphere is always great for learning. I have competed in the first aid competition in the past, but this is the first time I have competed with Metropolitan. Even though the focus was on first aid, it was great to compete with these guys as we prepare for the Australian Mines Rescue competition next month, so well done guys,' he said.

'Thanks also to our employer, Peabody, for their ongoing support and giving us the time to study and train this year,' he concluded.

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Metropolitan 2 (L-R): Scott Doran, Warren Kirk (captain), Dean Roberts, Mitch Roberts

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About Coal Services:

Coal Services is an industry owned organisation committed to providing critical service and expertise to the NSW coal mining industry.

Coal Services is dedicated to working in partnership with customers and stakeholders to provide a suite of health, safety, environment and insurance solutions. These critical services support NSW coal mine workers, employers and communities and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe workplace and a healthy workforce.

Coal Services has statutory functions, as outlined within the *NSW Coal Industry Act 2001*. These functions include, but are not limited to, the provision of workers compensation; occupational health and rehabilitation services; the collection of statistics and the provision of mines rescue emergency services and training to the NSW coal industry.

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