

## First aid competition tests skills

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**Newcastle (Australia), 8 May 2023 –**

Snake bites, chemical burns, and electrocution were just some of the scenarios facing teams at the Coal Services Northern Region First Aid Competition held at the Newcastle Mines Rescue Station on Friday, 5 May 2023.

Eleven teams competed at the event, with the team from South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal's Dendrobium mine named overall winners.

Monique Roberts, Head of Health Operations, explained that the first aid competition is an opportunity for teams to test the skills they learn through first aid training at Mines Rescue.

"The scenarios are designed to reflect situations you might come across at home, in the community or workplace. Teams are given just a basic first aid kit and are judged on how well they work together, how they respond to each situation, as well as their first aid proficiency. The day has a strong practical skills focus, but teams are also tested on their general first aid theory knowledge and CPR."

A first aider must be able to quickly identify and respond to injuries, while at the same time be aware of further potential hazards. They must also draw on a range of leadership and organisational skills, such as providing direction to bystanders who may be able to assist, as well as take notes to give to paramedics when they arrive.

South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal's Dendrobium Mine team captain Rob Monkley commended his team for their efforts.

'Competitions are an opportunity to test what we learn and today highlighted how these skills can be applied to domestic situations. We've competed at Mines Rescue competitions before, but this took us out of comfort zone and I am so proud of the team today.'

'I'd like to thank Coal Services and in particular the team at Newcastle Mines Rescue for putting on such a fun comp; the volunteers who add to the realism of the scenarios; and to South32 Illawarra Metallurgical Coal for their ongoing support with training and the opportunity to compete,' he added.

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L-R: James Sproates, Rob Monkley (captain), Rod Powell, Scott Rowland

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## About Coal Services:

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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.

Visit [www.coalservices.com.au](http://www.coalservices.com.au) for further information.