

# **National Road Traffic Collision Extrication Challenge**

## **19<sup>th</sup> May 2014, Skopje, Macedonia**

The event representing Macedonian contribution to the DPPI SEE DMTP for the year 2104 was hosted and organized by the Protection and Rescue Directorate of Macedonia with support from the Operation Florian, UK. The planning process of the event itself took around 2 months and included not only all the fire chiefs in Macedonia but also all the relevant organizations responsible for road traffic safety. The Challenge itself is part of a wider national campaign that promotes road traffic safety elements and accordingly supports the UN decade for traffic safety. Representatives of 5 DPPI SEE member states (Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Slovenia and Turkey) took part in the Observers Programme of the challenge.

The aim of the Extrication Challenge was to bring together teams of rescue personnel who are committed to not only displaying their ability but also to expanding their practical skills by learning from and teaching others involved in the same field (detailed information on the Challenge are given in the below document "National Road Traffic Collision Extrication Challenge").

1.2 8 teams composed of professional fire fighters from each region of Republic of Macedonia were brought together to a single venue where their skills were put to the test in tackling different Road Traffic Collision (RTC) scenarios.

1.3 The skills that the teams have developed in training for the event and pick up during the challenge will go back with them. This experience, skill and knowledge will be used to great effect when they attend their next RTC incident resulting in the casualty having a greater chance of survival.

1.4 The emphasis is on developing and promoting 'Best Safe Practice'. The ethos was not merely to win the event. It was more about improving the skills of the fire-fighters in order that they are better able to deliver a professional service to the public.

1.5 The competition was designed as a learning platform where participants were encouraged to critically examine their own rescue practices and techniques.

## **2 Objectives**

2.1 The Challenge provided an arena for rescue personnel from across the Republic of Macedonia to come together, in order to stimulate and develop proficiency levels in all areas of rescue, but specifically in:

- Incident Command
- Safety
- Extrication

- Pre-Hospital Care
- Expert use of equipment.

2.2 The Challenge has identified 'best practices' through review of the training techniques implemented by participating teams and transfer that knowledge back to the Fire and Rescue Service of participating teams.

### 3 The Bench Marks

3.1 The organisers believe that the Challenge has enabled a learning environment. We also believe that the teams that took part are now better able to achieve the following benchmarks:

- Adopt a 'Safety First' approach which will be underpinned by dynamic incident command.
- Possess high and very proficient levels of pre-hospital care attained through a Casualty Centred Approach.
- Able to demonstrate their broader knowledge across the spectrum of extrication principles, techniques and scene safety.
- Able to demonstrate ingenuity and innovation in terms of technical/practical skill, through deployment of resources.
- Teams attain a thorough understanding of the 'safe person' concept.

### 4 The Challenge

4.1 Each team was assessed, using common criteria, by a team of three assessors who scored the following areas:

- Incident command and control (Command)
- Physical rescue and general techniques (Technical)
- Pre-hospital care (Medical)

4.2 The scenarios consisted of one of the following:

- A single vehicle on its wheels
- A single vehicle on its side
- A single vehicle on its roof

4.6 Each team had twenty minutes to complete as much of the scenario as its possible for them to do so safely.

4.7 Each team was debriefed immediately following their scenario by the judges.

4.8 The live casualties used in the scenario were medically trained and had an input into the medical rescue assessment.

4.9 A copy of the scoring sheets which were used by the assessors were made available to every team prior to the competition.

## 5 Rules

These were the rules for the participating teams on the Challenge:

5.1 No team will participate without the written authorisation from a senior manager of their region.

5.2 Each team will consist of a crew of six, including a team leader and a medic. The team leader must be clearly identified as such (i.e. utilising helmet markings, armbands, tabard, etc.).

5.3 Only Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) which is approved by the crew's FRS is permitted to be worn by team members, including the medic.

5.4 All participants MUST wear head, hand, foot and eye protection.

5.5 Each team was assessed in three primary areas during their scenario:

- Incident command and control;
- Technical rescue and general techniques;
- Pre-hospital care of the patient.

The urgency in which the whole scenario is undertaken will be considered as part of the assessment.

5.6 Live casualties will be used during the scenario and marks will be awarded on the level of care they receive and the manner in which they are handled throughout.

5.7 Basic care of the patient will be evaluated using the ABC and S protocols, with care and safety being of prime importance.

A = Airway Management  
B = Breathing and Resuscitation  
C = Circulation  
S = Spinal Care.

5.8 Each scenario will allocate to it three judges. All scoring information will remain confidential between the assessors and the team concerned.

5.9 The decision of the Head Judge concerning any assessment or conduct will be deemed to be final.

5.10 A nominated judge will be appointed as a Safety Officer who will supervise each scenario. He will have the authority to halt any action deemed to be in breach of safe working practice. Such a breach shall not on the first occasion incur any penalty. However subsequent breaches may, at the discretion of the Safety Officer in consultation with the judges, incur penalties.

5.11 Teams will have to provide all their own personal safety and emergency medical equipment.

5.12 Teams will be required to carry their equipment in with them once the team is called for their scenario. Pre-rigging of equipment will be allowed.

5.13 Teams may loan equipment to other teams after ensuring any safety features are fully understood by the recipient.

5.14 Teams must present themselves to the event registration point between 07:30 and 08:00 on the day of the event. Any teams that have not completed registration by this time may not be allowed to compete. The event registration point will be clearly signposted from the entrance to the building.

5.15 There will be a second registration point outside, clearly marked and adjacent to the isolation tent. Teams must present themselves here forty minutes prior to their designated competing time. Failure to do so may result in elimination of the team.

5.16 There will be a Safety Briefing at 08:05 immediately following the closure of registration. This will take place in the same room as the event registration.

**It is mandatory that ALL team members attend this briefing. Any team not attending will not be allowed to compete.**

5.17 The organisers will not be responsible for any damage or loss of any equipment as a result of participating in this event.

5.18 Insurance for the protection of the team members shall be the sole responsibility of the participants in the event. The host organisation shall supply third party liability insurance.

## 6. Closing Ceremony

6.1 After the last scenario was finished the official part of the Challenge was concluded. All the teams were brought to the Briefing room and small analysis by the organizers was conducted. After the inauguration of the winner of the first national challenge for road traffic collision extrication a small reception was organized.

## Conclusion

Macedonian Protection and Rescue Directorate is extremely proud of the event and believes that it will become a traditional one.