



R B F & R S

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RBFRS TEAM VICTORIOUS IN REGIONAL RESCUE CHALLENGE

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service's (RBFRS) competition rescue team returned victorious from the Southern Area Rescue challenge, having been awarded first place overall. The challenge was held at reigning World Champions Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service's headquarters in Eastleigh on Saturday (26 June).

The RBFRS team, made up of Paul Maynard, Ian Handley, Matt Fairlie, Seth Juby and Adam Stevens, was up against the best extrication teams from across the south, including Hampshire, London, Dorset, Devon and Somerset, Kent, East Sussex and Surrey. Each team was faced with a series of realistic complex road traffic collision scenarios to test their skills in rescuing the 'casualties' from the vehicles as quickly and safely as possible.

Points were awarded in five categories – best incident commander, technical skills, medical skills, trauma rescue, and best team overall. The RBFRS team came first in the incident commander, medical and best overall sections. They also narrowly missed out on a first in the technical skills category, coming a close second to London.

The next step for the team is the UK national challenge in Scotland in September, followed by the World Challenge in Germany in October.

Paul Maynard, Group Manager for Response and the team's incident commander, said: "This was our first challenge of the year, so we're really pleased to have come first – it makes all our training and hard work worthwhile. We're now looking forward to the national and World events in the autumn, and this win has given us even more incentive to train hard. All the skills and techniques we learn ensure that people who are unfortunate enough to be victims of road traffic collisions in Berkshire are attended by first-rate rescuers."

ENDS.

Note to Editors:

The accompanying team photo shows (L-R): Alan House, Deputy Chief Fire Officer at Hampshire FRS with Paul Maynard (GM Response, based at Brigade HQ); Ian Handley (Firefighter at Langley); Matt Fairlie (Firefighter at Newbury); Seth Juby (Firefighter at Slough); and Adam Stevens (Station Manager, Maidenhead Fire Safety).