

*****Media Release*****

**For immediate release
5 June 2018**

Finke Desert Race Pre-running Accident, Alice Springs.

Yesterday St John Ambulance paramedics attended a motorcycle crash as a result of preparation for Tattersall's Finke Desert Race. The accident occurred 30 km south of Alice, where a female rider sustained injuries from activities associated with race preparations, requiring Ambulance crew attendance and subsequent conveyance to Alice Springs Hospital for further treatment.

St John Ambulance CEO, Judith Barker said "Our paramedics in Central Australia are well prepared for the upcoming race weekend. Planning for the event has been ongoing for months. St John Ambulance intensive care paramedics, paramedics and volunteers will be on site to provide emergency first aid and medical treatment should it be needed for participants and spectators. We will be present from the event pre-running, scrutineering on Friday evening, through to the final trophy presentation Monday night."

"This weekend is the culmination of our on-going training and will highlight the skills and professionalism of our paramedics and volunteers. The remote, rugged environment and terrain continues to present new challenges each year, however our Ambulance service continually rises to the challenge. We perform rescues and recoveries from the most remote parts of the Central Australian desert, with our personnel meeting the challenges without flinching."

"Our pre-event planning sees us establishing 4 Medical checkpoints, 2 first aid posts, utilising 15 Ambulances, 3 command cars and 3 helicopters. We also have a critical response unit, manned by highly trained intensive care paramedics, considered to be the elite of pre-hospital care responders. All the while maintaining our day to day services to the greater community. It is a big weekend for Alice Springs and an even bigger weekend for the NT as a whole."

St John Ambulance NT Regional Manager- Southern, Andrew Everingham, is available to comment on the pre-race accident in Alice Springs.

St John Ambulance will provide medical incident updates to the media each day over course of the 2018 Finke Desert Race.

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