



An Urban Search and Rescue team exercising a structural collapse scenario.



Trained Urban Search and Rescue dog Banjo took part in the exercise. Click on the photo to watch the video. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2t6DlIfnPUo>)

Urban Search and Rescue Major Exercise

We are responsible for managing building collapses and landslide incidents including any subsequent search and rescue operations.

To make sure we are ready, it is imperative we exercise our skills each year. In October 2018, we held our annual Urban Search and Rescue exercise at the decommissioned Hamilton Hill High School. The scenario involved a light aircraft crashing into a multi-story school building causing a gas leak explosion and trapping dozens of students in debris, cutting them off from escape.

Superintendent Jon Newman said the multi-agency field exercise was designed to test our capabilities in the event of building collapse.

"The simulation ran for 24 hours with personnel from the Career Fire and Rescue Service, Urban Search and Rescue and Volunteer Canine Unit, as well as St John Ambulance, Department of Health and WA Police" Jon said.

"The exercise tested many aspects of responding to a complex structural collapse including command, control and coordination of multi-agency operations, technical and canine search techniques, rescue of people trapped under debris, and treatment and transfer of casualties in a difficult, hazardous environment."

Jon said the exercise was a success and reinforced the value of regular inter-agency training activities.