Malvern volunteers to test

their skills in nation’s capital

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Members of Victoria State Emergency Service’s (VICSES) Malvern Unit are headed to Canberra this morning to represent the service in the 2015 National Disaster Rescue Competition.

The competition – held every second year - pits teams from every state and territory against each other, testing their rescue skills in scenarios that mirror what they encounter every day, including flood and storm damage response, land searches, mass casualty incidents and rescuing of people from heights.

Malvern SES has been selected to represent VICSES in the completion after a strong showing last time the event was held. The Victorian team includes five rescue members and a crew leader, led by Team Manager Phil Munslow.

“We’re confident we’ll do well. We placed second overall in 2013 and we’re hoping to better that.”

He said the group had been training twice weekly and on some weekends in preparation for the event and they were looking forward to competing.

“The skills the team has learnt in the last few months of training, and those we’ll learn over the weekend, will be brought back the unit and shared,” he said.

VICSES Chief Executive Stephen Griffin said the volunteers from Malvern would do the service, and the state, proud.

“The National Disaster Rescue Competition is a great way for our volunteers to show their skills,” he said.

“All of our volunteers are highly skilled and are constantly training and sharpening their abilities. I wish our Malvern team all the best over weekend.”

Victoria SES is the state control agency for flood, storm, earthquake and tsunami, working with Victorian communities to help them get ready for these hazards and mitigate their impacts.

For more information on VICSES, visit [**ses.vic.gov.au**](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)