



Firefighters from Dalglish Fire and Rescue Service lent their services on the day and performed a vehicle peel and lift with St John Ambulance paramedics. Photo courtesy of Perth Photography.

Road crash re-enactment has important message

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Last year 200 people in Western Australia died as a consequence of road crashes.
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More than a quarter were people aged between 17 and 25, the driving group most likely to be involved in a serious crash.

To help reduce the fatality and injury rates among young people, FESA teamed up with WA Police, St John Ambulance, Royal Perth Hospital and the RAC for 'bstreetsmart', a road safety education event.

More than 3,500 high school students from across Western Australia witnessed a simulated road crash scenario that reflects the trauma emergency services personnel deal with every day.

They also heard presentations from people affected by road crashes, and interacted with agencies that provide road safety education.

District Officer Stirling Peter Jones, who helped organise FESA's involvement in the event, said firefighters, along with police officers and paramedics, were exposed to the stress and trauma of road crash on a regular basis.

"Firefighters see firsthand the effect these incidents have on the community, as well as colleagues, and we will do all we can to reduce the numbers of people killed on our roads. Hopefully this event contributes towards that," Peter said.

"I'm sure all firefighters would like to see our young drivers show more care on the road.

"After all, they are responsible for the safety of their passengers, who could be our sons, daughters or loved ones.

"You only have to watch a television news story about a young person tragically losing their life, to see the grief it causes their family, friends and the community.

"Many of our firefighters are affected by the gruesome scenes they encounter and it can stay with them for the rest of their lives.

"If we can help to change the driving behaviour of our young drivers, and ultimately reduce the number of fatalities on our roads, that would be a great achievement."

Peter also said the event was a good opportunity to work collaboratively with other emergency services personnel.

"We all have our different roles, and support and assist each other daily," he said.

"Events such as this help to strengthen our relationships with other agencies and develop our skills by working together."