



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Office of Traffic Safety Awards \$14,500 Grant to the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District for New Emergency Response Equipment**

Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. – Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District announced today that it has received a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for training on the use of auto extrication equipment. First responders use specialized tools such as the “jaws of life” to safely rescue crash victims trapped inside a vehicle. This training will support firefighter proficiency in extrication tool use, and a variety of other necessary skills.

"We are incredibly grateful for this grant, which will allow us to receive state-of-the-art training for using rescue tools, which is critical to give the best care for people injured in crashes," Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District Battalion Chief, Paul Roman said. "This training will significantly improve our ability to protect and serve our community, allowing us to respond even more effectively in times of crisis."

Post-crash care is vital in preventing serious injuries from turning deadly. Delays in providing expedient care impacts survival chances. Reducing the time it takes to get to the patient, treating what can be treated, and transporting the patient to the hospital can be the difference between life and death. According to federal data, 42% of people who were killed in car crashes were alive when first responders arrived. Training on proper technique and use of tools such as the “jaws of life” and other hydraulic rescue tools helps first responders deliver life-saving measures to patients trapped in vehicles, significantly increasing chances of survival.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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