



MEDIA ADVISORY

Orange County Fire Authority
Captain Greg McKeown/PIO

1 Fire Authority Rd.
Irvine, CA 92602
(714) 573-6201: Office
(714) 402-3739: Cell

February 6, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: OCFA to Host California Task Force 5 Search Dog Demonstrations

Contact: Greg McKeown, Fire Captain/PIO, 714-402-3739, gregmckeown@ocfa.org

Who: The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) will host Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) California Task Force 5 (CATF5) search dogs and their handlers for training and demonstrations.

What: The intent of the demonstration is to illustrate to USAR Coordinators and other sections within the OCFA the capabilities of our USAR canines. The canines and their handlers will primarily demonstrate agility, obedience, and control. These are highly trained service dogs similar to those used in Haiti and other emergencies. "These search dogs are truly amazing," says OCFA Captain and Search Team Manager Craig Covey. "Their abilities to find survivors in a disaster could save lives."

The National Search Dog Foundation provides the canines to CATF5 and selects handlers for each dog. Once a team is matched, they undergo up to two years of intensive training before reaching "Certification" status. CATF5 currently has seven certified teams with an additional five in training. Across the nation there are approximately 225 certified teams.

The following CATF5 teams that include OCFA handlers plan to be in attendance:

- Engineer Doug VanIwaarden with "Wiley"
- Engineer Davis Doty with "Jester"
- Retired FC-Reserve Rick Bartlett with "Spuds"
- Firefighter Bruce Hale with "Jerry"

Where: OCFA Headquarters located at 1 Fire Authority Rd. Irvine, Ca. 92602

When: Tuesday, February 9th at 9:00-9:45am.

Captain McKeown will coordinate both photo and interview opportunities for this event. For more information on CATF5 please visit www.CATF5.org and for more information on the Search Dog Foundation, please visit www.searchdogfoundation.org. For more information on the OCFA, please call (714) 573-6200 or visit www.ocfa.org.

#

The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.3 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.