



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUBJECT: ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY PARTICIPATES IN STATEWIDE URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE DRILL AT HERITAGE FIELDS

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Irvine, CA – As part of a statewide emergency preparation exercise, the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is participating in the “hands on” portion of the 2007 Golden Guardian Urban Search & Rescue Drill at Heritage Fields on Thursday, November 15, 2007.

“Through a public/private partnership with Lennar-Heritage Fields, we are grateful to be able to use the former MCAS El Toro base during this time of transition for something that ultimately will help save lives,” said OCFA Battalion Chief, Kris Concepcion.

“This drill will highlight the work of local first responders with state and federal resources,” said OCFA Captain Richard Ventura, California Task Force 5 Logistics Manager. “In light of the recent wildfire here in Orange County, this is another way to showcase our preparedness and expertise in different types of disasters including earthquakes, floods, building collapses, terrorist attacks, hurricanes and tsunamis. “

This is a graded exercise testing the effectiveness of several Southern California Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) teams. Participating US&R teams include California Task Force 5 (Orange County), California Task Force 2 (Los Angeles County) and Regional Task Force 3 (Long Beach). The exercise will be a simulated terrorist attack and the US&R teams will be conducting mock rescue operations. The props for this exercise have been built on-site, and most of the materials (lumber and concrete) are being salvaged from structures under demolition.

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