

PRESS RELEASE

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Russian River Fire Protection District



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Extrication Grant Kickoff

Guerneville, Calif - The Russian River Fire Protection District is pleased to announce it has successfully obtained an Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) grant in the amount of \$105,000 for the purchase of new extrication equipment within Sonoma County Region 5. This updated equipment will allow firefighters to improve their capabilities at the scene of car accidents with entrapment. The new tools are designed to be quicker, lighter, and able to handle the stronger metals of modern car construction.

In 2016, Departments in the grant funded areas responded to 109 Traffic Collisions, 50 of which required extrication. This grant will assist in efforts to reduce the number of persons killed in traffic collisions. Traffic deaths from all causes increased nearly 17 percent from 2010 to 2015 in California. Safer roads and cars, stepped up enforcement and awareness, along with faster and more effective extrication equipment for emergency responders will help in sending that trend downward. Delays in extrication can negatively impact the patient's critical "golden hour" of trauma survivability. The "golden hour" for Emergency Medical Services is the core principal of rapid intervention in trauma cases: 1) to get to the patient quickly, 2) treat what can be treated on scene, and 3) quickly get the patient to the appropriate hospital. Anything that can be done to shorten each of these time periods aids in chances of patient survival / recovery.

This grant will fund 3 fully equipped extrication systems, as well as accessories. At a date TBD, there will be demonstration of the new equipment and its capabilities.

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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