



For Immediate Release

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The Graton Fire District and the Sebastopol Fire Department are Awarded a Grant for New Emergency Response Equipment

Sebastopol, Calif. – The Graton Fire District and the Sebastopol Fire Department are the recipients of a \$100,000 grant to purchase new extrication equipment. Known as the “jaws of life,” first responders use these specialized tools to safely rescue crash victims trapped inside a vehicle.

“This new equipment will help reduce the time it takes for us to safely extricate victims from vehicles, which will provide for rapid medical care and transport,” said Graton Fire District Assistant Chief Robert Sabrowsky. “The OTS grant funding will give us the opportunity to purchase modern rescue tools and provide training to first responders that is critical for the care of those injured in vehicle collisions,”

“It is vital that we keep pace with the changes in materials and technology in the automotive industry,” said Sebastopol Fire Department Assistant Chief Michael Elson. “This new equipment does just that, keeps us equipped with the latest, most advanced rescue tools in the world. Additionally, we must continually update our skills and abilities for every vehicle on the road today, thus enabling us to safely and efficiently rescue victims from vehicular entrapments.” “We are grateful that the California Office of Traffic Safety provides these grant opportunities to the fire service. We all agree, these new tools will save lives in our communities.”

Delays in providing care to crash victims impacts the “golden hour” of survival, a core principle in the emergency medical services industry. Reducing the time it takes to get to the patient, treat what can be treated, and transport the patient to the hospital helps increase the chance for recovery.

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