

# SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Public Information Office

## MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release – April 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 1:30 p.m.

### Earthquake Collapse Search and Rescue Demonstration with CHP Helicopter

**San Francisco, CA** – The San Francisco Fire Department (SFFD), in partnership with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), will demonstrate the delivery of a highly trained SFFD K9 Search Team via helicopter in the event of a large disaster. As the anniversary of the Great San Francisco Earthquake approaches, the SFFD is showcasing new technology and techniques to aid in search, rescue, and firefighting, should another large earthquake strike San Francisco.

In 1906 some fatalities were the result of persons being trapped in rubble from the earthquake where rescuers were unable to access the area. In 2024 the SFFD is trained and equipped to deploy teams into these areas to determine the need and scope of possible rescues.

This event on April 16<sup>th</sup> will allow attendees to see a live demonstration of this capability when the CHP H30 Helicopter lowers an SFFD K9 team onto a large rubble pile at the SFFD Training Center on Treasure Island. The helicopter will then land nearby, and the crew will be available to explain the process of collecting and delivering the rescue team. The K9 and handler will also be available to demonstrate a search and answer questions about their readiness in case of a 1906-sized earthquake today.

**What:** SFFD and CHP Helicopter K9 Search and Rescue Demonstration

**Where:** SFFD Treasure Island Training Facility Avenue M and 10th St on TI

**When:** April 16<sup>th</sup> Event to begin at 11am

CHP and SFFD members will be available for questions following the demonstration. Media requesting 1 on 1 interviews with participants should RSVP to the SFFD PIO Office at the email below and will be advised on availability.

Observers will be directed to take shelter as the helicopter approaches for safety reasons and no seating area will be available during the event.

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