



Deployment Roster

Hurricane Harvey

15 SDF-trained teams respond to worst disaster in American history as Hurricane Harvey destroys much of Houston, TX with relentless rain and devastating flooding.

California Task Force 1 (Los Angeles Fire)

JAVA

Java, a five-year-old Plott Hound mix, was picked up as a stray by the Humboldt County Animal Shelter in McKinleyville, CA. During a routine visit to this shelter to help save canine lives, staff from Bones Pet Rescue of Covelo, CA adopted Java from this kill shelter in an attempt to find her a great home. It was at Bones Pet Rescue that Java was discovered by SDF supporters Laura and Wayne Rathe and identified as a potential search and rescue candidate. Java spent the next 6 months in Search Dog boot camp and on November 5, 2012, Java was partnered with Eric Ingstad, a Firefighter/Paramedic with Los Angeles City Fire. Hurricane Harvey marks their second deployment with California Task Force 1.



California Task Force 4 (Oakland)



ROCKET

In late 2012, the Sacramento SPCA contacted SDF canine recruitment volunteer Andrea Bergquist about a potential candidate at their shelter. Due to his high energy, he was considered unadoptable and placed on the euthanasia list. Initially, Rocket did not pass SDF's testing requirements but the Bergquists adopted Rocket themselves and we re-tested him in November 2013. This time, he blew SDF trainers away and the Bergquists donated Rocket to our program when Head Trainer Sonja Heritage agreed he had what it takes to be a Search Dog.

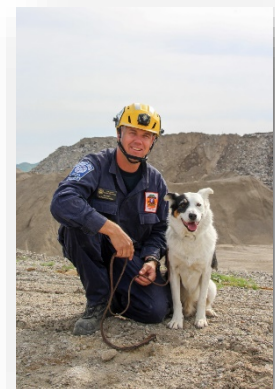
Rocket thrived in training and was partnered with Engineer Mike Stornetta of the Windsor Fire District on August 6, 2014. Mike and Rocket first deployed following a plane crash in Santa Rosa in January 2016, making Hurricane Harvey their second deployment together.

California Task Force 5 (Orange County)

JESTER

Jester was recruited from High Sierra Animal Rescue (HSAR) in Portola, CA in 2007. HSAR volunteer Penny Woodruff shared at the time, *"He was turned in to the animal shelter by his owner, who said he was giving him up because Jester kept jumping the fence. At only one year old, Jester was on the euthanasia list, and...he had an abundance of energy! He was so proud of being an escape artist and had such a great attitude, that we all just fell in love with him."*

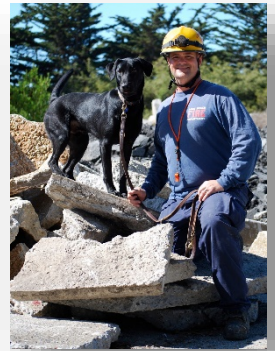
Partnered with Captain Davis Doty of the Orange County Fire Authority, the team has achieved FEMA Certification (an evaluation required every 3 years) a record 4 times, which is what enables Jester to continue to deploy with their Task Force!



REX

In the summer of 2008, an SDF volunteer received word from a friend about a Labrador breeder in Central California needing to place one of her puppies. SDF doesn't normally accept puppies because it's difficult to tell at that age if the animal has all the characteristics needed in a Search Dog. But when SDF heard that this puppy was from champion field trial and duck hunting breeding, we felt his chances of completing the training were better than average and gave him a chance.

After being raised by a volunteer prep home, Rex completed Search Dog training with flying colors and, in October of 2009, Rex was partnered with Wade Haller of the Long Beach Fire Department. They trained intensively and in April of 2010, just six months after being paired, Wade and Rex achieved their FEMA Certification, making them ready to deploy anywhere in the United States for disasters like Harvey.



SADIE

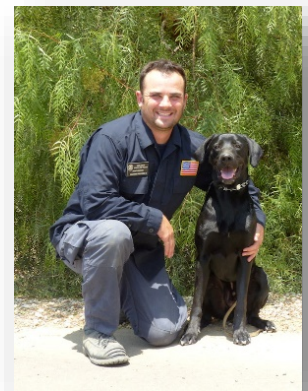
Sadie was discovered by long-time SDF supporter Nona Bauer in La Belle, MO in January of 2011. She was driven out to SDF in California and upon completing Search Dog training, originally graduated in January 2012 and was partnered with a firefighter on New York Task Force 2, based in Albany. Although she Certified and even deployed in New York, due to unforeseen circumstances with the Task Force, Sadie returned to SDF to find a new partner.

Last year Sadie was paired with veteran Canine Handler, Captain Doug Van Iwaarden of Orange County Fire Authority. The team achieved FEMA Certification in 5 months and Hurricane Harvey is their third deployment!

California Task Force 8 (San Diego)

DECKER

Called "Oscar" at the Sioux Falls Area Humane Society in South Dakota where he was discovered by Tim and Kellee Matthews of the South Dakota Canine Center in late 2012, Decker had already spent nearly seven months in the shelter in the hopes of finding a forever home. Because Decker was surrendered to this shelter on two occasions – the first time due to a divorce and the second time because the family could not handle his unexpected growth and energy – we are thrilled to have helped turn this rescued canine into a rescuer! Partnered with Brent Brainard of San Diego Fire-Rescue on June 13, 2014, this is Brent & Decker's second deployment.



HALEY

In July of 2009, Labrador breeder Nancy King of Canyon Country, CA had a 1-year-old Labrador that was evaluated and in the process, 8-week-old Haley was discovered. It is very unusual for SDF to consider a puppy for our program but Haley showed such great potential, we evaluated her anyway. With her energy, drive and focus, even at such a young age, Nancy generously donated her to SDF and Haley went to live at an approved SDF prep home. Described as "a bombshell of energy" and "a fearless little searching machine" by her trainers, Haley graduated and was paired with firefighter-handler Linda D'Orsi of Chula Vista Fire in September 2010. This is Haley's first major deployment!

Nebraska Task Force 1

CHIEF

On a cold, bleak day in March of 2010, a young Golden Retriever was found cowering in the driveway of a stranger's home in Grand Junction, Colorado. The homeowner took the stray to the Roice-Hurst Humane Society where they treated him for kennel cough and hoped to find him a home. However, sick as he was, shelter staff couldn't get him to sit still or stop chasing his ball. They called SDF and after viewing a video of him in action, our Head Trainer at the time said, "Get that dog!"

We re-named him Chief in honor of Fire Chief Michael McGroarty who, as one of SDF's Board members, had been instrumental to the development of our program but had recently lost a battle with cancer. After six months of training, Chief was partnered with Andrew Pitcher, a seasoned civilian Disaster Search Dog handler and this will be the team's third deployment. In 2005, Andrew deployed following Hurricane Katrina with his previous SDF canine partner, Andy.



GEORGE

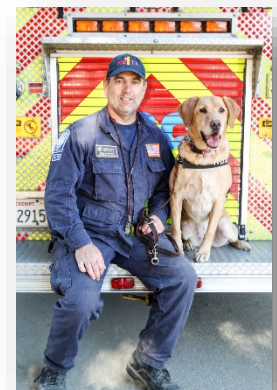
George was recruited from Labradors and Friends Rescue in San Diego, CA, in 2010. Over the years, SDF has adopted five dogs from Labs and Friends, two of which are still active Search Dogs today. The traits that helped him excel in Search Dog training – high drive and tons of energy - are the very same traits that landed him at the rescue in the first place!

George was paired with Firefighter/Paramedic Damon Wirth, and joined Nebraska Task Force 1 in November of 2010. "I just love him," said Damon about his exuberant Black Labrador partner. "He loves to play, loves to work, and has great drive. He goes non-stop." This is the team's third deployment.

LILLY

Cute and lovable Lilly landed herself in shelters more times than we can count, until Ellen Perryess of the San Luis Obispo County Animal Shelter in California found Lilly's true calling. On every Dog Owner Surrender Information form, Lilly's fence-hopping, energy, toy obsession and friendliness were noted - fortunately for Lilly, that's just the resume the Search Dog Foundation (SDF) looks for!

Lilly was paired with civilian Steve MacDonald in 2010 and the team achieved FEMA Certification several months later, which enables them to deploy with their task force. Hurricane Harvey is Steve and Lilly's third deployment and the first storm of this magnitude they will have experienced.



Texas Task Force 2

BILLY

In 2014, Billy was discovered wandering the streets by the Humane Society of the South Platte Valley located in Littleton, CO. By November of the same year, Billy graduated SDF's training program and was partnered with veteran SDF Handler Patti Krafft, a Lieutenant with Dallas Fire-Rescue.

In April 2015 the new team achieved Certification from the State Urban Search and Rescue Alliance (SUSAR) in order to deploy, and were out the door a few short weeks later when a tornado struck Runaway Bay, TX. Two years later, Hurricane Harvey is the team's fifth deployment!



ROCKY

Rocky was donated to SDF by a family living local to our National Training Center in Santa Paula, CA. The family's patriarch is a county firefighter and recognized that their pet could achieve success in our program and help others.

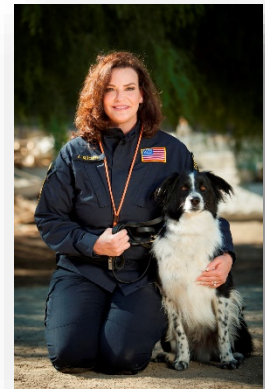
Rocky completed Search Dog training in November 2014 when he was paired with Fire Rescue Specialist Robert Grant of the Plano Fire Department. They achieved Certification and this is their fifth deployment.

When notified that Rocky and Robert were responding to help those affect by Hurricane Harvey, Rocky's family let us know, *"we are really proud of what Rocky is trained to do."* We know he'll continue to make them proud!

SKYE

Picked-up as a stray by the Western Hills Humane Society in Spearfish, SD, in 2012, Skye wore a tag from Nebraska, and while shelter staff could not determine how he could have traveled so far, no one ever came to claim him. Labeled an escape artist, Skye was discovered tied in one of their kennels and upon evaluation for our program, Skye was adopted for SDF on the spot!

On October 8, 2013, Skye was paired with Andrea (Andi) Sutcliffe of Texas Task Force 2 and SDF trainer and handler Lee Culley said, *"Skye has never looked at any of us trainers the way he looks at Andrea. It's a focused and attentive stance that tells her he's ready to face whatever obstacles she can throw at him."* Hurricane Harvey is the team's eight deployment in less than four years!



TUCKER

In 2009, SDF recruited Tucker from Yolo County Animal Services in Woodland, CA. Like so many of the canines in the shelter system, we do not know Tucker's history prior to his arrival at our doorstep. But Tucker blossomed in Search Dog training and In January of 2010, Tucker was partnered with Handler Keri Grant, a Firefighter/Paramedic with the McKinney Fire Department.

Keri retired from McKinney Fire last year but the team have remained members of the Task Force and this is their fifth deployment in Texas. In the last seven years, Keri and Tucker have also responded following two tornadoes, a building collapse, and plant explosion!

Utah Task Force 1

COLE

Cole was recruited from El Dorado County Animal Services in Placerville, CA, in 2013. He excelled in SDF's training program and was paired with Firefighter/Paramedic Roxanne Bauman of the Layton Fire Department. This is Roxanne and Cole's second deployment and a mother of four, Roxanne had to leave the kids at home just a few days into the new school year. She looks forward to assisting those in need in Texas but also hopes to return home in time for her youngest son's 8th birthday in a couple weeks.

