



# Deployment Report

## Storm Watch

March 21, 2018

*Following the Thomas Fire - the largest wildfire in California history - the first storm of 2018 ravaged several parts of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, causing deadly flooding and mudslides to the recent burn areas on January 9<sup>th</sup>. As another strong storm system moved into the region on March 20, Search Teams and rescuers from throughout Southern California are staging for possible debris flows caused by heavy rains and unstable ground in recent burn areas.*



### DEACON

#### Los Angeles County Fire

Deacon was privately donated to SDF and he arrived at our National Training Center (NTC) in Santa Paula, California on December 26, 2016. What a present Deacon has turned out to be! The young Black Labrador is as much a natural at Urban Disaster Search and Rescue work as ever we have seen!

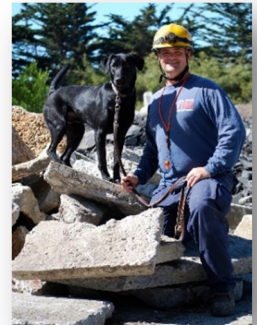
On September 1, 2017, Deacon was partnered with firefighter/paramedic Mike Toepfer of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. They achieved FEMA Certification in early March 2018 and this marks their first staging for a deployment as members of California Task Force 2.

### REX

#### Regional Task Force 3 (Long Beach Fire)

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 but when SDF heard that this one was from champion field trial and duck hunting breeding lines, we felt his natural instincts gave him a better than average chance that he was a born Search Dog.

Rex completed his training with flying colors and, in October 2009, he was partnered with Wade Haller of the Long Beach Fire Department. They trained intensively together 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 following disasters, including a recent deployment to Montecito, California this past January.



### JESTER

#### Regional Task Force 10 (Orange County Fire Authority)

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. 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. Most recently, Jester deployed to the Montecito Mudslides in January 2018.

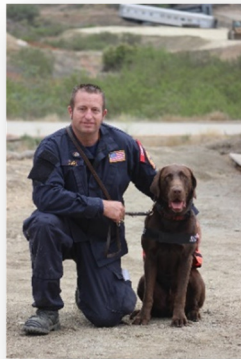


## **RILEY**

### **Regional Task Force 12 (Santa Barbara County Fire)**

Riley was surrendered to the South Bay Purebred Rescue in San Jose, CA in 2008 by a couple who felt the rambunctious puppy needed a more suitable living situation. Riley was adopted from the rescue by another family who took him to Sundowners Kennels – SDF’s training kennel at the time – for obedience training. There, his Search Dog potential was identified and all parties agreed Riley would be happiest with a fulfilling career.

On October 15, 2009, Riley finished his basic Search Dog training and was paired with Eric Gray of the Santa Barbara County Fire Department. The team achieved FEMA Certification several months later and have since deployed seven times as members of California Task Force 2 - including international missions to Japan, Nepal and Puerto Rico. The team was one of the first to be searching the mud and debris in Montecito in January after a deadly landslide covered part of that community.



## **RUGBY**

### **Los Angeles County Fire**

This handsome, long-legged Chocolate Lab was donated to SDF in September of 2010 by the same SDF volunteer who found Clancy. After finding an ad in the local newspaper about this high-energy dog, she evaluated him for SDF and determined he was a perfect candidate. SDF trainers couldn’t agree more!

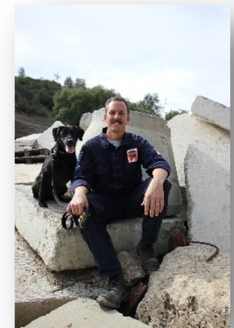
In May of 2011, Rugby was paired with Captain Dennis Clark of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Since first achieving FEMA Certification in 2012, Dennis and Rugby have deployed eight times, to vehicle crashes and missing person searches, as well as internationally following deadly earthquakes in Nepal and Mexico. Most recently, the team assisted in rescue efforts after the Montecito mudslides.

## **SADIE**

### **Regional Task Force 10 (Orange County Fire Authority)**

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 the Orange County Fire Authority. The team achieved FEMA Certification in 5 months and this is the team’s fifth deployment after deploying to Montecito at the beginning of the year.



***Thank you for supporting our teams to help prepare them for this deployment and thank you for being Part of the Search!***