



SEARCH TEAM FUND IMPACT REPORT

2023 - 2024 FISCAL YEAR

185 grants provided
SDF teams : 46
Non-SDF teams : 139

\$151,452.87
total money granted

SDF handlers : \$ 35,955.83
Non-SDF Handlers : \$ 115,497.04

What money was used for

Training travel expenses : \$ 74,529.85
Training equipment : \$ 18,924.86
Canine care equipment : \$ 33,509.27
Vet care for non-SDF canines : \$ 24,488.89

58 working dog organizations served

State or federal urban search and rescue task forces : **31**

Wilderness, avalanche, and other working dog groups : **27**

SDF-SUPPORTED SEARCH TEAMS GATHER FOR INTENSIVE TRAINING IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

In January 2024, SDF provided financial support to 16 handlers, helping them pay the registration fee and travel expenses to attend the inaugural NorCal Open Training Event. This collaborative effort, organized by California Task Forces 3, 4, and 7, offered a unique opportunity for canine search teams from across the nation to enhance their skills.

Over the three-day weekend, teams were immersed in a variety of training scenarios, including building searches, debris pile operations, and both live-find and human remains detection exercises. California Task Force 3, based in Menlo Park, hosted search piles, a building search, and agility equipment. In Oakland, California Task Force 4 provided two massive debris piles with simulated conditions, along with expert-led classes on decontamination and canine trauma. California Task Force 7 in Sacramento offered tactical building and wide area search scenarios.



The event attracted Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) canine teams specializing in live-find and human remains detection, as well as wilderness teams from across the country. Despite the winter weather, each site hosted approximately 40 teams per day, providing a valuable learning experience for all participants.

JP Hilsabeck, a live-find US&R handler whose canine partner Bond was trained by SDF, expressed his gratitude for the grant that made his participation possible. "Your support has been instrumental in my growth and achievement," he shared. "After Bond and I deployed to Türkiye last year, training like this is essential to maintaining our top-level skills. We're always ready to answer the call, thanks to your support."