

DDAF received an update from Search Dog Foundation, which received a DDAF grant. The situation was tragic, but once again the SDF crew was there, just in case.

Dear DDAF:

We wanted to update you on SDF's Progress Report for the wonderful grant in support of our Lifetime Care Program.

Local residents may have heard about the tragic accident in La Canada-Flintridge last week, when a run-away semi-truck crashed through a busy intersection and into a bookstore/coffee shop (here's a link to a news report on the accident: http://www.dailynews.com/ci_12060183). SDF search team, Gary Durian and Baxter were deployed to search for survivors at the site, and Gary sent us this report:

To SDF:

I just wanted to let you know that Baxter and I were deployed last night in the city of La Canada-Flintridge. This was in L.A. County Fire Department's jurisdiction. At approximately 6 p.m., a car carrier truck was driving down Angeles Crest Highway (which is a mountain road) and was unable to stop where the road ends at Foothill Boulevard. The truck hit several cars in the intersection before driving through a book store. The entire truck with the exception of the last 5 feet of the trailer, were inside the book store. Two people were killed in one of the vehicles and 12 others were sent to the hospital.

They had us search the vehicle with the two bodies. The roof had already been removed and the car (a Ford Escort) was severely damaged. The two deceased victims were still in the vehicle, covered with blankets. Baxter climbed over the entire car clearing it, letting us know there was no one alive trapped in the wreckage.

We then searched the book store and the cab of the truck. [Fellow SDF handler] Ron Horetski was also on the call and was acting as our safety. Baxter cleared the store and truck in approximately 15 minutes. No live victims were found, but it was a good opportunity for us to search in a real situation.

Gary Durian
Los Angeles County Fire Dept.

Thank you so much for your support of SDF's teams. We are all so proud of their work, and grateful to you for helping to make it possible. (See attached file: Baxter & Gary Durian Training, Oct 07 B Cahn.JPG)

With all our thanks,
Clare