

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE (2023)

National Disaster Search Dog Foundation

The Search Dog Foundation's MISSION IS TO STRENGTHEN DISASTER RESPONSE IN AMERICA BY RESCUING AND RECRUITING DOGS AND PARTNERING THEM WITH FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS TO FIND PEOPLE BURIED ALIVE IN THE WRECKAGE OF DISASTERS.

Founded in 1996, the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation (SDF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Santa Paula, California. They offer professionally trained canines and an ongoing training program at no cost to fire departments.

I had the honor of being on their Board of Directors and was the Chairman of the board during the time that they built the National Training Center in Santa Paula.

A unique element of their program is that they ensure lifetime care for every dog in our program: once rescued, these dogs never need to be rescued again.

There are currently 94 SDF-trained Canine Disaster Search Teams located in Baja California, California, Florida, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Thanks to mutual aid agreements between counties, cities and states, these precious, life-saving resources can be deployed regionally and nationally to make sure that when disaster strikes, no one is left behind.

For the efforts to protect our communities and provide these valuable resources, BICEPP presents our Award of Excellence to the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation.

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