



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Santa Barbara County Firefighter Re-Engages after Latest Nepal Earthquake

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. May 13, 2015 – Santa Barbara County Firefighter/Paramedic (FF/PM) Eric Gray and his Search Dog, Riley are continuing their search and rescue efforts in Nepal. FF/PM Gray and Riley initially responded to Nepal on April 26 with USA-2, a Medium Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) team from the Los Angeles County Fire Department.



The Team was in Kathmandu, Nepal, when a 7.3 magnitude earthquake struck the Dolakha District in the Central Region of Nepal on Tuesday. The U.S. Geological Survey considers this earthquake to be an aftershock following the April 25 magnitude 7.8 earthquake. All 57 members of USA-2 are safe and accounted for.

Following Tuesday's earthquake, USA-2 was re-engaged to assist with search and rescue operations in the Katmandu and Dolakha regions of Nepal. USAR personnel are conducting aerial assessments of Dolakha and the surrounding areas, in coordination with the U.S. military, to view the extent of the damage. USAR members are also on the ground in Dolakha and Kathmandu, conducting active search and rescue operations to locate survivors.

The USA-2 USAR team is serving on the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). The DART comprises 133 people, including 22 USAID disaster experts, a 54-person USAR team from Fairfax, Virginia, a 57-person USAR team from Los Angeles County, and 12 canines.

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