



Media Advisory

Clark County Fire Department ■ 575 E. Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89119

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For Immediate Release

February 14, 2005

- What: Urban Search & Rescue Exercise**
- When: Tuesday, February 15, 2005, from 8:00 AM till 5:00 PM**
- Where: Operating Engineers Local 12 Training Facility, Howdey Wells just west of Hollywood & Las Vegas Blvd. North (out by the speedway).**

43 members of Nevada Task Force 1 (NV TF-1) will be participating in a complex exercise designed to hone skills needed to help rescue people from worse case scenarios. Most of the participants are members of the CCFD's Heavy Rescue Team who specialize in technical rescue.

This event is divided into three segments:

- Breaching/breaking concrete and cutting steel
- Lifting extreme weights using special "air bags"
- Shoring structures or rescue devices

The participants will be divided into three groups and will rotate from one of the three assignments to another until all work is completed.

All tools used by the team are specially designed for heavy rescue work. For example, the "air bags" vary in size from one foot to three-foot square and can lift a semi truck. A unique chain saw is fitted with specialized cutting edges that can cut through six inches of concrete. Special optics and listening devices are used to find survivors that cannot be easily seen among tons of rubble.

NV TF-1 is one of just 28 such teams approved by FEMA that is trained and equipped to be able to respond to a major catastrophe anywhere in the United States. The team and tons of specialized equipment are subject to call out, in as short as a six-hour window, and must be self sufficient for three days once arriving at the emergency. Some current members of NTF 1 responded to the WTC in 2001.

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News release also available on the Internet at www.accessclarkcounty.com

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