

**RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION FOR  
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SEARCH AND RESCUE  
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

***WHEREAS**, Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue is an all volunteer branch of the Santa Barbara Sheriff's Department dedicated to supporting life saving search and rescue missions when called upon during emergencies, distinguishing themselves among public safety agencies throughout Santa Barbara County; and*

***WHEREAS**, on July 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue team members distinguished themselves when they were tasked with providing door to door evacuation notices during the Gap Fire in North Goleta neighborhoods. Coordinating their deployment into neighborhoods that were threatened by a fierce wind driven fire, they successfully evacuated over two hundred and fifty homes during that event. The coordination and efficiency at which they operated allowed hundreds to journey safely out of harm's way in a safe and orderly fashion; and*

***WHEREAS**, during the 2008's unsponsored Isla Vista Halloween event, Search and Rescue was tasked with providing a rescue component, coordinating the rescue of injured or ill persons who were incapable of seeking medical assistance. They worked side by side with Emergency Medical Services, County Fire and Sheriff's Deputies, providing the first layer of medical aid to those in need. On most occasions, the injured or ill were hand carried via stretchers by Search and Rescue volunteers to ambulances staged several blocks away, through crowds estimated at more than twenty five thousand people. On the night of October 31, 2008, team members performed thirty three rescues, and eight more the following evening. These rescues were at times hazardous. One team member required medical treatment after being struck in the head by a thrown beer bottle; and*

***WHEREAS**, on the night of November 13, 2008, tragedy struck the Santa Barbara area during the disastrous Tea fire that destroyed over two hundred and ten homes. Santa Barbara Search and Rescue team members were again summoned and answered the call. In the face of great danger they advanced into neighborhoods facing a raging, wind-driven fire capable of consuming entire neighborhoods. As others retreated to safety, Search and Rescue volunteers risked their lives to ensure that all in the fire's path were notified and escorted to safety. Due in part to their heroic effort, professional values, training and commitment to serve, no lives were lost and significant injuries were low as they evacuated over five hundred homes in less than five hours. The successful Tea fire evacuation, planned and executed by a volunteer force, was an exemplary Search and Rescue mission; and*

***WHEREAS**, this volunteer group, known as " Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue", dedicates themselves through hundreds of hours of training and personal sacrifice, preparing for call outs, major incidents and natural disasters, thereby providing an outstanding level of service to public safety and the citizens of Santa Barbara County.*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AND IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND RESOLVED** that this Board of Supervisors commends Santa Barbara County Search and Rescue for faithful and distinguished service worthy of recognition by this Board and the citizens of this County.*

***PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Santa Barbara County, State of California, this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2009, by unanimous vote of all members present.*