



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PET O2 MASKS DONATED TO FIRE DEPT.

The San Bernardino County Fire Department is pleased to accept a donation of 149 Oxygen masks kits, which are designed to be used to resuscitate household pets. The donation was presented to the fire department by Debra Jo Chiapuzio, president of the EmmaZen Foundation. When distribution is complete, every fire engine, ladder truck, ambulance, and squad in the county fire department will have a kit available for use in an emergency.

Mrs. Chiapuzio stated that she started her foundation out of a desire to make a difference when it comes to helping pets that may have been affected by fire or other disasters. She named the foundation after her pet Labrador/Great Dane dog Emma Zen, that was a rescue dog following the Santiago Brush Fire in 2007. Mrs. Chiapuzio is making it a goal to distribute the masks to as many fire departments as she is able and has already covered every department in Orange and Los Angeles counties. The donation to the San Bernardino County Fire Department is the first in this area but not the last. Next she will work on covering all the municipal departments in the county.

Each kit costs \$75 and contains 3 different sizes of masks for various sizes of pets. The masks can be used to deliver oxygen or to provide rescue breathing when doing pet CPR. In the past, firefighters that attempt CPR on pets have had to improvise with equipment meant for humans. Now with the kits available, the right tool for the job will be at their disposal to assist in rescue efforts.

It is important to note that firefighters are not going to be responding to 911 calls that involve pet medical emergencies nor will the saving of human lives be given less priority. The masks will be utilized if, through the normal course of an emergency such as a fire in a home, the firefighters come across a pet that has succumbed to the smoke, is in need of care, and there is no other duty that would take precedence.

The County Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Mrs. Chiapuzio and the EmmaZen Foundation for their donation. More information can found at emmazen.com or at facebook.com/emmazen. Pictures are available online at sbcfire.org.

