



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Santa Clara County Hazardous Materials Response Team Re-certified** *HazMat 72 achieves highest level certification*

**Santa Clara County** – Santa Clara County Fire Department’s Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Team, HazMat 72, has been recertified by the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). HazMat 72 is one of four Type 1 teams in the greater Bay Area and one of thirty-three Type 1 teams in the state of California. It is available for response throughout the county and can be deployed via mutual aid to anywhere in the state of California.

Originally certified by CalOES in December of 2009, County Fire has maintained continuous certification. The recertification is valid for a period of 5 years.

A Type 1 team is the highest level of certification provided. It requires a minimum of 7 firefighters qualified to the “Specialist” level and an extensive cache of air monitoring and chemical identification equipment. The combination of staffing and equipment enables HazMat 72 to respond to and mitigate emergencies involving known and unknown chemicals, including biological, radiological and nuclear substances.

“Maintaining Type 1 status requires a tremendous commitment on the part of our personnel and their professionalism is reflected in HazMat 72’s continuous Type 1 certification. HazMat 72 is a vital component of our Special Operations Task Force and our ability to support our public safety partners throughout Santa Clara County. I am proud of the dedication of the firefighters assigned to HazMat 72,” stated Fire Chief Ken Kehmna.

HazMat 72 is based out of County Fire’s Seven Springs Fire Station in Cupertino.

For more information on the HazMat Team and County Fire’s Special Operations Task Force, visit our web site at [www.sccfd.org](http://www.sccfd.org) or contact the PIO.

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**Representatives from CalOES inspect HazMat 72's equipment.**



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**County Fire's HazMat, A-shift crew**