

County Firefighters Take First Place in Rescue Competition

Thursday, 08 November 2012 18:00



PHOTO COURTESY OF AISHA KNOWLES

Members of the Alameda County Fire Department's Search and Rescue team took first place last month in the Operation Urban Shield training event and competition. They beat fire departments from all over the Bay Area.

Last month, the Alameda County Fire Department's Search and Rescue team took first place in the 2012 Urban Shield Urban Search and Rescue competition.

Urban Shield is the largest annual Department of Homeland Security exercise in the United States. This year, twelve Urban Search and Rescue teams from throughout the San Francisco Bay Area were presented with a variety of challenging scenarios that reflect the reality of operating in an “all-risk” environment.

The 10-member Alameda County team also won the competition in 2011, becoming the only team in event history to be repeat first place winners.

The event is a test of a response team’s capabilities so that strengths and areas for improvement can be identified.

“While promoted as a competition, the real benefit to participants is the opportunity to bolster preparedness and validate the benefits of such capabilities to the communities they serve,” said Rob Schnepf, ACFD Division Chief.

The members of the first place 2012 ACFD Urban Search and Rescue Team are Captain Jim Call, Captain Tom Pappas, Captain Clare Takhar, Engineer Scott Stielstra, Engineer Brandon Franco, Paige Bowie, Anthony McAdams, Carl Denyer, Garrett Brown, and Brian Ferreira

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