

Summer temperatures are not ideal for working dogs. But sometimes, the project cannot wait.



Colette and Kaze, at sunrise, work a large field. Ground temperatures went from 65°F at 6:30 am to 100°F at 9 am.

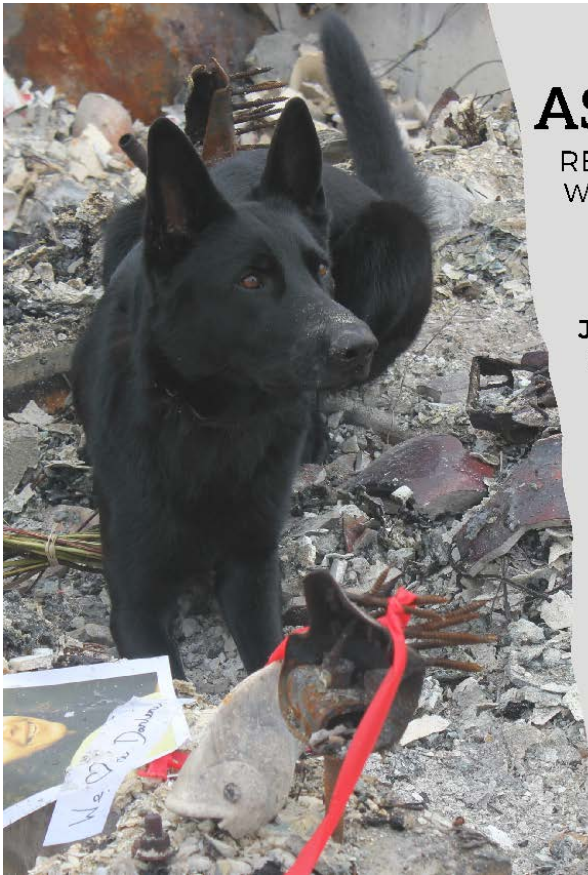
Weather, especially ground temperatures and humidity, play a critical role in the dogs' ability to locate scent. The higher the ground temperature, the lower the Probability of Detection. Ideal ground temperatures are between 40°F and 85°F. We stop working dogs when the ground temperature approaches 100°F. Most people do not realize that ground temperature can be significantly higher than the air temperature. For example, an air temperature of 85°F can become over 100°F on the ground.

When the project cannot wait for cooler weather, we offer a compromise to our clients. We bring more teams and schedule work to start as soon as we can see the ground. We may get 2 to 3 hours of nose time in the early morning depending on the weather and location. In locations where it cools down in the evenings, we will return for a short time in the late afternoon and work as long as we have light. This technique usually takes longer as the working time is short.

We always look forward to the cooler parts of the year and the rain. The moisture helps make the scent more available to the dogs. Most of California has ideal weather for working our dogs in the winter. We do avoid heavy rain, and snow is not the best working conditions.

~Adela~

If you are in the Sonoma area on November 6th, please join us to view this screening. BTW the beautiful black Shepard is Cagney, Lori's HHRD dog.



ASHES FROM ASHES

RECOVERING CREMAINS FROM THE
WRECKAGE OF CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Join us for a screening of a short film
about the cremains recovery effort.

November 6 @ 6PM
Museum of Sonoma County
425 7th St, Santa Rosa

A panel discussion and Q&A
follows the film.



ASHES FROM ASHES

RECOVERING CREMAINS FROM THE
WRECKAGE OF CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

When wildfires strike, the cremated remains of loved ones are often left behind in the rush to evacuate. After the 2017 Tubbs Fire in Sonoma County, archaeologists and forensic canine teams found a way to recover cremains from the wreckage of destroyed homes.

An oral history project has documented these recovery efforts. Discover more about this remarkable process and its profound impact through a short film screening and panel discussion with those involved.



This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org.



On Saturday September 21st, dog handlers Lynne Engelbert and Joseph Kral gave a presentation on our work to the San Andreas Lake Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The meeting was well attended and after the presentation we spent more than an hour answering some excellent questions.

We first met our host, Nancy Sanchez, last March at the Pilarcitos Cemetery in Half Moon Bay, CA. We arrived with about eight dogs and handlers. We observed a woman cleaning up weeds and limbs, so I introduced myself and explained what we were doing. Nancy was there on her own volition to improve the cemetery, which is normally not well kept. Nancy was very interested in what we do and asked if we could present at their DAR meeting. Of course, we said yes, always looking for ways to promote our work.

-Joseph



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness we are letting the search dog world know of the passing of one of our most influential members, Shirley Hammond. Shirley was a driving force in the development of the disaster search dog world, even

authoring the Training the Disaster Search Dog manual. Shirley was a warm, hard-working and amazing mentor. We will miss her terribly.

~~Lynne~~



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We are happy to talk with you about your project and how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials. Call, email, or check us out on Facebook or our website. (You can find past newsletters there, too.)

Please feel free to pass this newsletter along to anyone who might be interested.

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