



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CON FIRE UNVEILS NEW MULTI-STORY STRUCTURE FIRE AND RESCUE TRAINING SIMULATOR**

#### **State-of-the-Art Live-Fire Training Prop Adds Realism to Training at Former Concord Naval Weapons Station Fire Training Ground**

**CONCORD, CALIF., Dec. 11, 2018** – Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Con Fire) today announced the opening of its Dräger Swede structure fire and rescue training simulator, allowing replication of real-world fire environments for teaching the complexities involved in fighting fires in multi-story structures with multiple fires occurring sequentially. The trainer is intended to improve firefighter safety, while developing critical skills in live-fire scenarios.

The training simulator is located in the administration area of the former Naval Weapons Station in north Concord and allows for realistic yet cost-effective fire training situations with minimal safety risks. It can accommodate a variety of fire scenarios, including fire attack with hydraulic ventilation; firefighter down, missing, or trapped drills; search and rescue; air management; mayday; and multiple fires training.

The training system was acquired through a 2016 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant to help Con Fire better develop first responders.

“Firefighting is dangerous business and realistic training can save lives, yet, realistic fire training carries its own level of risk,” said Jeff Carman, Fire Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. “This highly sophisticated and capable training simulator allows us to conduct the most realistic training possible while minimizing risk. I am confident it will contribute to better trained and safer firefighters for our District and the surrounding region.”

“Fighting fires in multi-story, multi-fire environments is one of the biggest challenges a firefighter can face,” said Lon Goetsch, Assistant Fire Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District. “The Dräger Swede simulator lets our training division replicate these environments to teach the complexities inherent in multi-story structures with multiple fires occurring sequentially.”

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## Con Fire Unveils New Live-Fire Training Simulator — 2/2/2

Key attributes of Con Fire's new structure fire and rescue training simulator are its ability to help control training costs, replicate modern fire behavior, and achieve multiple training competencies through field-proven curriculum, all while recognizing and observing fire behavior and conditions in a safe environment. It allows firefighters to learn and make mistakes in controlled, yet complex live-fire scenarios, helping them avoid making those life threatening-mistakes on real incidents.

One of the most valuable aspects of the trainer is its ability to allow realistic simulation of an entire single-alarm fire incident, including arrival on scene of multiple engines, each with its own fire-attack mission, while encountering actual, but controlled, fire.

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### About Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

*Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Con Fire) -- a recognized fire service leader -- provides fire and emergency medical services to more than a million people across its 304 square-mile District area, and through mutual aid, in and around the 20 cities and unincorporated communities of Contra Costa County, California. With few exceptions, county emergency ambulance transport services are provided by Con Fire through its unique sub-contractor Alliance model. In 2017, the District responded to nearly 74,000 fire and EMS emergencies and provided expert medical care on more than 75,000 ambulance transports. The District, with 25 fire stations and more than 400 employees, is dedicated to preserving life, property and the environment.*

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**NOTE TO EDITORS, REPORTERS:** Con Fire has implemented a new automated phone system designed to help working media more quickly and easily reach the correct on-duty public information officer (PIO).

After dialing 1-925-660-PIO1 (7461), the caller will be prompted to "press one" to be connected with the on-call PIO.

Media interested in non-Con Fire incidents (East Contra Costa, Moraga-Orinda, and San Ramon Valley FPDs, along with Richmond Fire) should continue to call the county fire dispatch media number at 1-925-941-3305.



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### PHOTO RELEASE

#### CON FIRE UNVEILS NEW STRUCTURE FIRE AND RESCUE TRAINING SIMULATOR AT FORMER CONCORD NAVAL WEAPONS STATION TRAINING GROUND

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