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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2020

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SCFD and Partner Agencies Activate Quick Response Vehicles to Protect Community During COVID-19 Spread

SANTA CRUZ – To help prepare for community impacts from COVID-19, fire departments throughout Santa Cruz County are testing Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs) to better respond to calls and protect residents and first responders.

As part of COVID-19 preparations, emergency medical service providers throughout Santa Cruz County have developed cooperative plans to address the potential for increased call demand. These plans include deployment of alternative resources such as Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs) staffed with trained responders from all Santa Cruz County fire agencies. This is being done to ensure that the public need for emergency medical care is fulfilled.

To maintain the availability of critical emergency resources, the public should consider the following before calling 911:

1. If you are experiencing mild symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, flu-like symptoms) consider home isolation and self-treatment.
2. If you need treatment for mild symptoms of COVID-19, call your primary care physician or local clinic for instructions.

First responders are committed to providing emergency medical care. If you call 911, expect responders to take precautions that minimize the transmission of COVID-19, and 911 dispatchers may provide instructions for calls that do not require an ambulance or hospital transport. Immediate threats to life and safety will be addressed.

For more information on COVID-19, visit www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus, call 211 or text "COVID19" to 211211.

Participating agencies include AMR, Central Fire District, Santa Cruz Fire Department, Aptos/La Selva Fire District, EMSIA, Scotts Valley Fire District, Ben Lomond Fire District, Felton Fire District, Santa Cruz Regional 911, Boulder Creek Fire District, Santa Cruz County EMS/Public Health, Watsonville Fire Department, CAL Fire, Santa Cruz County Fire and Zayante Fire District.