



City of La Verne

NEWS RELEASE

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La Verne Fire Department Awarded State Grant to Improve Vehicle Rescue Response

LA VERNE, CA – The La Verne Fire Department has received a \$57,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) to purchase updated vehicle extrication equipment and support traffic safety education.

The funding will allow LVFD to replace aging rescue tools, expand the number of engines equipped for vehicle extrication, and train firefighters in new techniques and equipment capabilities. With busy arterial roads, high-speed corridors, and a growing number of traffic-related calls, this equipment plays a critical role in saving lives.

“Our firefighters respond to hundreds of traffic collisions every year, and the speed and reliability of our rescue equipment can make a life-or-death difference,” said Fire Chief Chris Nigg. “This grant ensures we’re able to get victims out faster and get lifesaving medical care started sooner.”

Over the last three years, LVFD has seen a growing demand for technical rescues, including DUI-related crashes and mutual-aid responses to surrounding cities. Updated battery-powered extrication tools are lighter, stronger, and faster than older hydraulic systems and improve both patient outcomes and firefighter safety on busy roadways.

As part of the grant, LVFD will also conduct public education efforts focused on reducing impaired driving and improving roadway safety awareness.

“La Verne is committed to reducing serious injuries and fatalities on our streets,” said Mayor Tim Hepburn. “This partnership with OTS strengthens that mission and supports our first responders with the tools they need.”

The grant funding period runs through September 2026.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



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