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## News from: **Oakland Fire Department**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Oakland Fire Department Partners with California Fire Foundation to Supply Aid to Victims of Emergency**

*Oakland, CA* - As first responders, firefighters are often called upon to provide comfort to families on the worst days of their lives. Now, a new partnership – Supplying Aid to Victims of Emergency (SAVE) – allows Oakland firefighters to help those victims take the first small step to healing. Funded by the California Fire Foundation through private donations, SAVE lets the Oakland Fire Department crews, while on scene, offer immediate financial assistance to victims who suffer a significant property loss due to fire. Under the innovative program, \$100 SAVE cards can be given to families when the property loss is judged to be greater than 25 percent of total value.

The SAVE program was developed in partnership with the California Fire Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation dedicated to providing comfort and support to fallen firefighter families and the communities they protect. Funding for the SAVE program was provided by donations to the Foundation and corporate sponsorship from Chevron, Inc. The California Fire Foundation continues to raise funds and seek additional sponsorships to bring SAVE cards to more communities and, eventually, increase the face value of the cards. SAVE is entirely funded by private donations – there is no cost to taxpayers.

Fire Chief Teresa Deloach Reed of the Oakland Fire Department said, “The Oakland Fire Department is proud to participate with the California Fire Foundation in the implementation of this valuable program. The Oakland Fire Department excels at serving our community in their time of need and this program gives us an additional means of doing so. Many thanks to the California Fire Foundation for helping us to further assist and serve our community members in moments of great need.”

“Firefighters do what we do because of a desire to serve,” said Lou Paulson, chair of the California Fire Foundation and a retired Contra Costa firefighter with nearly three decades on the front lines. “By offering SAVE cards to those who have lost so much, Oakland firefighters are able to continue providing comfort and support after the fire is out.”

International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 55 President, Daniel Robertson said, “IAFF Local 55 believes this is a great thing. Oakland Firefighters have a long tradition of directly helping the people of Oakland through our off-duty volunteer work. Now with the California Fire Foundation’s SAVE program, we can provide aid immediately for basic essentials, a hot meal or a place to stay. It gives us a tool to help fire victims when it’s needed most, a gesture of kindness during the worst time in their lives.”

To learn more or to make a tax-deductible donation, please visit [cafirefoundation.org](http://cafirefoundation.org).

For additional information, contact Deputy Chief Darin White, Field Operations Bureau, at (510) 238-4052 or [dwhite@oaklandnet.com](mailto:dwhite@oaklandnet.com).

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