

**MEMORANDUM**  
**OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**COUNTY OF PLACER**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** David Boesch, County Executive Officer  
by John McEldowney, Emergency Services Program Manager

**DATE:** February 24, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Addition to the Master Fixed Asset List for Extrication Equipment

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

- 1) Approve an amendment to the FY 2014-15 Master Fixed Asset List to add two Hurst Power Units valued at \$10,000 each, two Hurst Cutters valued at \$8,000 each, and two Hurst Spreaders valued at \$10,000 each with no new net County cost.
- 2) Authorize the Purchasing Manager to sign the resulting purchase order.

**BACKGROUND**

The current hydraulic extrication equipment in service at Station 30 (Colfax), Station 33 (Alta), and Station 32 (Dutch Flat) is close to 25 years old and does not perform effectively on many vehicles being manufactured today. Many cars are now being manufactured out of ultra high strength steel (UHSS) and other advanced metals. These metals are being used in up to 60 percent of the entire body structure of all new passenger vehicles and our current tools aren't as effective on UHSS. Extrication tools being manufactured today, however, are specifically designed with the force necessary to cut through these new materials. The current equipment being used is not performing well resulting in extra time to extricate victims causing a delay in patient transport.

This became abundantly clear during a vehicle accident requiring extrication along Interstate 80 near Alta in early January. The victim was stuck inside the vehicle for 90 minutes as the extrication equipment being used was unable to cut through the vehicle's material in an acceptable amount of time. Fortunately, the victim survived. However, had the responding apparatus been equipped with extrication equipment capable of cutting through newer manufactured vehicles, the victim would have been safely removed from the vehicle and transported to the hospital in a much more reasonable amount of time, thereby lessening their discomfort and allowing for medical personnel to administer care.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no impact to the County General Fund as a result of this action. Funding for cost increase is available in the Fire Protection Budget.

