



Institute
for
Canine Forensics

Specializing in Locating Historic and Prehistoric Burials
A Non-Invasive Search Tool to Locate Human Remains



Shark Mouth

(AKA jaw wrestling) Looks vicious but it's only play

Because No One Should Have to Lose a Loved One Twice...

Our response to the Camp & Woolsey Fires



Picture from the Woolsey fire December 1st, Archaeologist Michael Newland showing colleagues Monica Strauss, Coleen Delaney and Colette Swan our techniques for finding and collecting human cremains that were lost in the fire.

We thought we were done with fires for a bit, but now we are facing the largest and most destructive fire in California history. As of this writing, fourteen thousand homes have been destroyed and 84 people died in the Camp Fire, alone. Our search is not for people lost in the fire, but rather for the cremated remains of loved ones that had to be left behind during the evacuation. **We need your help to return something precious to the victims of the fire!** Our services are free to them. We're raising funds to help defer the cost to the volunteers responding. Please help get the word out my sharing our GoFundMe page and donating if you can. Because no one should have to lose a loved one twice...

www.gofundme.com/Recovering-Lost-Loved-Ones

Many families keep the cremated remains (cremains) of their loved ones in their home. It might be temporary, until they go to a final resting place. Or it might be more permanent, as some people find comfort in having them nearby. As the victims of the fires ran for their lives, many did not have time to take the



cremains. ICF is once again, teaming up with archaeologists from ALTA and ESA to form a one-of-a-kind Cremains Recovery Team. We need your help to respond and locate / recover the cremains of these loved ones.

Our service is offered free to the fire victims. Our team members do this on a volunteer basis; your donation will help to defer their costs. Basic expenses (travel, food, and shelter) to search 100 homes for cremains are estimated to exceed \$29,000 (and we expect to get many more

than 100 requests.) Any unused donations will be reserved for future volunteer responses. ICF is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization; you will receive a receipt for your tax-deductible donation.

You can also help by sharing this with others, including victims of the fire. The

important information below needs to get to those who need our services immediately, in order to help facilitate the recovery of cremains:

- Do not disturb the area where the cremains may have been. (We have an over 90% success rate, but only if the site is undisturbed.)
- Protect the area; contact officials and tell them there are human cremains on the site.
- Contact the Institute for Canine Forensics as soon as possible (408-981-7831) to sign-up for assistance.



If you are an archaeologist interested in helping our team you can go to <https://www.altaac.com/cremains-recovery>

The Team:

[Institute for Canine Forensics](#) (ICF)

[Alta Archaeological Consulting - Professional Archaeologist](#) (ALTA)

[Environmental Science Associates](#) (ESA)



Our First Camp Fire Recovery

A few days ago we received a call from Carol, who had been forced to abandon her car in Paradise and flee for her life. In it were her husband's cremains, computers that she had 4.5 years of research on and her four live cats. She was forced out of her car and whisked away to safety with only seconds to spare, she lost everything.

A few days later, she was notified that her car had been towed and she immediately went to see what might be left. With the assistance of the tow company owner, she tried to find the wooden urn, but of course, it had been consumed in the fire.



I asked the tow company owner, Jim, to send me some photos of the interior of the car, and some close-ups of a specific area. I saw what looked like cremains on the seat and our archaeologists agreed.

Kris Black and her dog Annie were on their way home after searching all day for victims of the Camp Fire. We were able to divert them to the tow yard. Annie quickly alerted, confirming that these were, in fact, cremains. Kris was able to recover the cremains, which also contained the metal disc that included the identifying numbers of the crematorium and the deceased. She also found his

military dog tag.

I contacted Carol and I asked how her day was going ... "ah, it's okay" was her sad answer. I said I had some news that would make her feel better, and told her about finding her husband's ashes. She was ecstatic, weeping in relief. And the tow company guys were blown away at Annie's work ... oh! and Kris's too. Our client was later able to recover her husband's coin collection, melted into a heap, with her wedding ring fused to the top.

Our work today made one woman very, very happy. Even though she lost everything, she got back what she wanted most, her husband's cremains.

Lynne Engelbert



Annie is shown alerting on the car door, adjacent to the cremains.

Sonoma State Historic Park

Mission San Francisco de Solano was the 21st mission built in CA and the northern most mission, founded in 1823. The California governor wanted a robust Mexican presence north of San Francisco to keep the Russians who had established Fort Ross from moving further inland.

In 1834 the Mexican government sent General Mariano Vallejo to over see the closing of mission San Francisco de Solano. Over time the buildings deteriorated. In 1841, Mariano G. Vallejo ordered a smaller church of adobe to be built in the location of the first wooden mission chapel.

North or upper California was a province of New Spain, it was split from a larger region in 1804 following the Mexican war of independence. It became Mexico territory in 1822 and renamed Alta California in 1824. This region also included the modern-day states of Nevada, Utah, parts of Arizona, Wyoming and New Mexico. Alta California was ceded to the US at the end of the Mexican – American war in 1848. Two years later (1850) California joined the union as the 31st state. Other parts of Alta CA, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Colorado and Wyoming were admitted later as states.

It was a great honor to be buried inside of the chapel. Usually it was reserved for priests or important officials of the church or mission. Many of the missions no longer know who is buried under the chapel floor. We worked several of our dogs just to see where they alerted. There are no plans to excavate or disturb any of the graves, it was just to gather knowledge of possible burials. All the dogs alerted at the alter of the chapel as well as other locations.

~ Adela ~





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We are happy to talk with you about your project and

how our dogs might help locate human remains or burials.

Call, email, or check out our website.

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