



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HISTORIC VEHICLE DESTROYED IN WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON TRAILER FIRE ON HIGHWAY 68 AT YORK ROAD

Monterey, Calif. – The Monterey Fire Department responded to a vehicle trailer fire on Eastbound Highway 68 (Monterey-Salinas Highway) West of York Road at 5:36 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2024. Crews arrived on scene to a fully involved commercial trailer, containing a vehicle, on fire spreading to the vegetation. The fire spread to the vegetation to an approximate area of 40 feet by 20 feet adjacent to the trailer. The crews moved quickly and extinguished the fire on both the trailer and the vegetation, preventing further spread. Highway 68 was closed in both directions, and traffic was diverted through Lower Ragsdale Drive for approximately one and a half hours until the trailer and vehicle were removed.

The driver successfully detached the tow vehicle from the trailer and sustained no damage. The trailer and vehicle inside were destroyed. The vehicle was a 1934 Hispano-Suiza J12 Vanvooren Cabriolet. The vehicle took second place in the J-1: European Classic Touring Early at the 2024 73rd Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. The vehicle's estimated value was \$2,000,000 and the trailer's estimated value was \$15,000.

16 fire personnel responded, led by the Monterey Fire Department, including two Division Chiefs from Monterey Fire Department and Monterey County Regional Fire District (MCRFD), four engines (including one from MCRFD), and one water tender (from MCRFD). Monterey Police Department responded and assisted with traffic control and PG&E responded to inspect the

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nearby power lines for damage. The driver of the transport vehicle sustained minor injuries, and no firefighter injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation but is not considered suspicious.



Photos of the Hispano-Suiza, before and after the fire, and showing the trailer fire.



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