



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

A paramedic staffed Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) is now staffed twenty-four hours a day with the Southern Cascades EMS District. The QRV is on a three minute response status, i.e. the QRV will be responding within three minutes of any EMS call in the Southern Cascades response area. The vehicle is equipped with all the medical equipment that is on an ALS ambulance including communications equipment capable of talking to dispatch centers, hospitals and other first responders. **The closest adjoining ambulance will continue to respond to all 911 Medical calls.**

Over the next few months, the staffing of an ambulance within the district will be phased in as the second level of response within the Southern Cascades EMS District. Staffed by on-call EMTs this vehicle will respond behind the QRV for ground transport. Should the decision be made to transport the patient by ground the SCCSD Ambulance will transport. Once staffed, the ambulance will be on an 8 minute response time and will respond to all EMS calls. The paramedic will

move to the ambulance when advanced life support is needed for the ground transport.

This system is being successfully used in Nevada and other rural areas.

The third level of EMS response has been in-place for the region for the last two years with the EMS helicopter located at the Southern Cascades EMS Operations Base in Adin. The EMS helicopter is a joint venture agreement with Sierra Medical Services Alliance and Air Methods Corp. Air Methods Corp is the largest provider of EMS helicopter services in the United States. The helicopter is staffed twenty-four hours a day with a Flight Nurse and Critical Care Flight Paramedic.

With the announcement today, the implementation of the tiered response emergency medical services system is beginning for the Southern Cascades Community Services District.

After the early termination of a five-year contract with an outside vendor for ground Advanced Life Support Services in July 2019, an Advisory Committee comprised of community members and local medical partners met over several weeks to present alternatives for the Southern Cascades Board to study.

Four alternatives were studied using eleven criteria that were established by the Southern Cascades Board to rate the alternatives and finally make a selection. Considerations included the fastest medical response and meeting the sustainable financial parameters insuring that the district can continue the alternative over time.

The chosen alternative is a hybrid model of Advance Life Support delivery, which involves the use of a Paramedic, staffing a Quick Response Vehicle (QRV), an on-call ambulance and the EMS helicopter when necessary.

