



(530) 299-3110 205 Ash Valley Rd. P.O. Box 239, Adin, CA 96006

MEMO

This memo is to inform residents in our service area of recent changes to our EMS staffing. Effective January 1, 2024 Southern Cascades EMS has transitioned from full time 24/7 ALS (Advanced Life Support) staffing to ALS staffing Wednesday through Sunday, 24 hours a day via QRV (Quick Response Vehicle).

What does this mean?

Southern Cascades EMS has operated an EMS ambulance in the past, consisting of a Paramedic to provide ALS services, along with an EMT to assist in patient care and transport to the nearest hospital. In recent months, with staffing and funding shortages, SCCSD has transitioned to providing ALS Paramedic Services in our Quick Response Vehicle. The QRV is a model used for ALS personnel to respond to emergency calls and provide patient care in the field while waiting for a ground or air ambulance to arrive on scene. In critical situations where other ambulance agencies are unable to respond for transport, SCCSD office staff will be available to drive our ambulance with a Paramedic on board to the scene of the call and transport.

Why is this happening?

It costs approximately \$700,000 per year to operate a fully staffed 24/7 ALS ambulance, consisting of one Paramedic and EMT. SCCSD receives approximately \$214,000 in parcel tax assessment revenue, and approximately \$100,000 in ambulance transport revenue, with remaining funding provided by the Districts Health Transport Division to bridge the funding gap. The Health Transport Division (HTS) contracts with Partnership Health of California to transport its members to and from their medical, dental, vision, and other health appointments. Some trips range as far as the LA area, putting an extensive amount of miles on the transport vehicles. Each vehicle is approaching or has approached its end of life and is in need of replacement. In order to replace these vehicles and maintain a healthy HTS Division that can financially assist in funding our EMS, the District must cut back on funding to the EMS division in order to rebuild HTS. This was not a decision that was made lightly and every option possible has been explored as an alternative. With no county, state, or federal funding available to assist with EMS operations, many agencies are facing the same crisis, resulting in cutbacks and in some cases, closures. SCCSD is vested in the community and strives to continue to provide EMS services to our constituents. We believe these temporary cutbacks will allow the District to rebuild its viable HTS Division back to a profitable standing that can in turn bridge the financial gap EMS faces.

What happens to my tax dollars?

Tax parcel assessments revenue will continue to cover expenses incurred by the EMS Division. To operate the ALS Quick Response Vehicle with a Paramedic, it cost approximately \$300,000 a year. The rationale behind our currently staffing cutbacks is to scale back service to what can be funded by the tax revenue, allowing the HTS Division the opportunity to invest its excess funding to vehicle replacement.

Is this permanent?

No. SCCSD plans to return to 24/7 staffing at the opening of the Fiscal Year, July 2024.

Questions?

Please reach out to Karli Frye, General Administrator with any questions or concerns. Cell: (530) 260-1686, Office: (530) 299-3110, Email: kfrye@southerncascades.org