



Diamond Springs - El Dorado Fire Protection District

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Medic 49 Information Bulletin

Effective July 1, 2022, Medic 49 will be “browned out” down staffed, due to circumstances beyond the Fire Districts control specifically, inadequate staffing. The decision to brown out the medic unit has not been an easy one. Every effort has been made to try to prevent this outcome. At the current time Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District has 5 firefighter/paramedic vacancies. It takes 6 firefighter/paramedics to staff Medic 49, 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The fire district has been working short staffed for most of the past year due to 8 resignations, 2 retirements, and 2 promotions. Despite continuous recruitment efforts the past 12 months, we have only been able to fill 5 positions. This situation is not an isolated one. There is a well-documented national shortage of firefighter/paramedics. Many Fire Departments throughout the state and the nation are struggling with recruitment and retention, including Cal FIRE. Due to the size of Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District there is not enough depth of staff and resources to work with this large of a deficit.

Obviously, there is a lot of concern about how this will affect the 911 response in the Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District as well as throughout the County. Understanding how the 911 system works within El Dorado County may help alleviate some fears and concerns while we all ride out this staffing shortage and try to get to full staffing levels.

1. The County is responsible for providing Emergency Medical Services to the people of El Dorado County. In order to provide this service, they formed the El Dorado County Emergency Services Authority (EDCESA) and they contract with them to provide Emergency Medical Services. The EDCESA is responsible for running the 8 ambulances that provide medical response to the communities on the West Slope of the County. The EDCESA then contracts with the fire districts to staff the ambulances.
2. Medic 49 is one of 8 ambulances that are the responsibility of the EDCESA. Five Fire Departments contract with the EDCESA to provide ambulance service. The 5 contracting agencies are Diamond Springs-El Dorado FPD, El Dorado County FPD, Cameron Park Fire/CAL Fire, Georgetown FPD, and El Dorado Hills FPD.
3. The EDCESA Board of Directors is an 11-person board which is made up of representatives of the 9 Fire Districts from the West Slope, as well as a representative from Marshall Medical Center, and the ECC Dispatch Center.
4. The EDCESA utilizes a System Status Management model which identifies call volume and service needs within the whole system. The system is dynamic and medic units are moved based upon the system needs (call volume).

- 5. Medic 49 consistently is the second busiest medic unit in the system. For this reason, the EDCESA Board has made the decision to move Medic 28 to the fire station on Missouri Flat Road. The EDCESA will be evaluating system needs daily and making decisions as necessary while efforts are made to get to full staffing levels.**

- 6. Diamond Springs-El Dorado FPD Engine 49 is an Advance Life Support (ALS) Engine. This means that although Diamond Springs-El Dorado FPD will not be responding with a Medic unit, the fire engine is staffed with a paramedic, and carries ALS equipment and medications. The fire engine will begin care and treatment immediately while waiting for an ambulance.**

As a community we have all had many challenges the past couple of years. All of us have been affected by the COVID pandemic and the Caldor Fire. Now we are confronted with a shortage of qualified firefighter/paramedics. These are incredibly trying times. Please know that Diamond Springs-El Dorado FPD is committed to serving and supporting our community and County.

If you have any questions, please contact us.