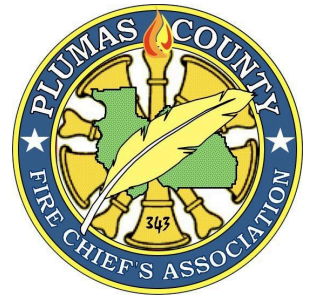


Plumas County Fire Chiefs Association



November 6, 2025

Sheriff Chad Hermann
Plumas County Sheriff's Office
Quincy, CA.

Dear Sheriff Hermann,

The Fire Chiefs Association, representing all fire districts in Plumas County, requests a safety modification to dispatch procedures for Mental Health Incidents. These types of incidents pose a possible safety threat to first responders. Plumas Firefighters lack the appropriate resources to mitigate mental health incidents alone. A response from cooperating agencies, such as Plumas County Behavioral Health should be considered. Injuries/death to volunteer firefighters not only affects the individual, but his/her primary employment status, personal finances, dependent family members, quality of life, and may not be fully made whole by District's insurance.

Fire personnel responding to Mental Health Incidents will "stage out" in the general vicinity of the incident while the medic ambulance crew assesses the patient. Modification to the response may be made by the lead Fire Officer, based on circumstances. The paramedic of the responding EMS agency is the lead medical authority at the scene and may decide not to enter a scene, due to specific safety considerations.

Fire personnel will stand by and assist the medic ambulance crew, as is possible and necessary. The lead fire officer at scene will notify Fire Control by radio for a Sheriff's Deputy emergency response, if the medic crew is threatened, assaulted or calls for rapid assistance.

Fire personnel may not respond to Mental Health Incidents if the medic ambulance is not dispatched or delayed due to other incidents. If the medic unit is delayed in response, fire personnel may stage in quarters until the medic unit is in the area, then responds to the incident, staging near the scene while the medic crew contacts the patient. Modification to the response may be made by the lead Fire Officer, based on circumstances.

We appreciate the dispatching services your Office provides, without cost to the Fire Districts. We all agree that mental health incidents are increasing in number and severity. The Plumas Fire Service cannot expose its personnel to additional risk unnecessarily and beyond what volunteer and low-paid firefighters already assume in the course of their duties.

Thank you for your patience and we respectfully request this immediate modification to the current Dispatch Policy.

The attached page contains the signature of approval of each of the Plumas County Fire Chiefs.

Respectfully,

Ed Ward, Fire Chief
PCFCA President