

East Fork Fire Protection District

OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tod F. Carlini, District Fire Chief
775-782-9048
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East Fork Fire Protection District Adds Additional Rescue Ambulance



Rescue 12 Crew, Marc Brizuela and Aaron Harvey with Fire District Director Steve Mihelic on the first day of Recue 12 activation in north county.

Minden – The East Fork Fire Protection District officially added a forth Advanced Life Support Ambulance to its service model on February 16, 2020. The fully staffed rescue ambulance will be stationed at Fire Station 12, located on North Sun Ridge Drive in the Indian Hills area. Station 12 serves one of the district’s largest response areas, including, Indian Hills, Alpine View, Clear Creek, Sunridge, and a significant part of the Johnson Lane area. The district monitors its resources and response data on a regular basis to determine where to locate its staffed resources. The area served by Station 12 is becoming one of the district’s bussinest response districts.

The district was able to provide the additional ambulance in part through its successful Staffing for Adequate Emergency Response (SAFER) grant received this past year. The SAFER grant allowed for the hiring of four additional personnel combined with the two other new positions approved by the District Board last year. Staffing a two person Rescue Ambulance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, requires six personnel, with two crew members working each 24 hour day and under a 48/96 work schedule. The Ambulance will now allow the district to have up to eight advanced life support units available per day to cover the 675 square mile

service area or 96% of Douglas County. The additional personnel will also enhance the District’s fire suppression staffing on incidents as well. The positive impact of this additional unit will be felt throughout the district. District Chief Tod Carlini explained that under the District’s Standard of Cover, the district attempts to provide advanced life support to the patient within 8 minutes 90% of the time and a transport ambulance with 12 minutes 90% of the time. This additional ambulance will have a significant impact on our response time goals, especially for the residents and visitor in the Johnson Lane, Alpine View, and Clear Creek areas. East Fork Fire Protection District Board member Steve Mihelic, who represents District 5, which includes a large portion of Johnson Lane, stated *“The District Board, Chief Carlini, and the district staff have worked diligently to achieve this important objective. It has taken a collaborative effort by all parties involved. As a District Director, I am very pleased with this effort and look forward to seeing the District continue to advance its service to our community.”*

Chief Carlini emphasized that while the primary benefit of the additional ambulance would be seen in the immediate response area, other parts of the District would receive collateral benefit by being able to keep assigned resources in Minden/Gardnerville and the Gardnerville Ranchos available to better serve those areas and southern Douglas County. The Topaz Ranch Estates and Topaz Lake area are serviced out of Fire Station 4 in the Topaz Ranch Estates. Several years ago the District undertook the enormous task of providing career staffing 24 hours a day in that area, which includes Advance Life Support capabilities.

The District responded to nearly 7000 calls for service in 2019 or approximately 20 calls per day.