

To: All Local Media Outlets

Date: Wednesday, July 29<sup>th</sup> 2009

**RE: PSA, Pioneer Fire Protection District's "Part-Time Non-Transporting Paramedic-ALS Service" Startup!**

Wednesday morning, July 29, the Pioneer Fire Protection District began providing Part-Time Non-Transporting Advanced Life Support Paramedic Service (**ALS**) response for the communities it serves.

After a four-year ALS service absence, and following the second and final inspection by Dr. David Brazzel, El Dorado County EMS medical director, the PFPD will have a certified and credentialed El Dorado County firefighter/paramedic, when available, assigned to either **Engine 38** or **Engine 238's** crew, located at **Fire Station 38, District Headquarters**, 7061 Mt. Aukum Road, in Somerset.

The firefighter/paramedic will be part of an assigned engine company crew that is also trained in Emergency Medical Services at the Basic Life Support level. All members of the engine company crew are certified firefighters.

With ALS capability, the PFPD can provide immediate on-scene administration of drugs and EKGs to patients in the field. This will increase the survival rates at emergency scenes for patients waiting for an ambulance.

Since Fire Chief Robert Gill was hired in July, 2007, it has been a high priority to bring ALS service back to the Pioneer Fire Protection District. Because of the district's mixed geography of semi-rural, rural and wilderness areas, residents have had to deal with long response and arrival times for an ambulance, in some cases more than 20 minutes.

The PFPD's average on-scene time is 14 minutes. Every minute counts during the "golden hour" for patient care, especially when trauma such as a vehicle accident or a fall, or a cardiac/diabetic situation. "Our local residents deserve to have the best immediate patient care available," Chief Gill says.

Medical calls make up approximately 70 percent of the responses for the district annually. In 2007 there were 299 calls, in 2008 there were 302, and through June, 2009 there have been 152 medical calls for service.

Currently the District operates a three-platoon shift system, and has at least one paramedic assigned to each shift. The chief tries to staff two stations at all times, when personnel are available: Station 31 (**Willows**) and Station 38 (**Three Forks**).

There are many people to thank for this new service -- the district's firefighters for becoming paramedic certified; the El Dorado County EMS Agency and El Dorado County Emergency Services Authority; the Pioneer Volunteer Firefighter's Association for donating money to assist in the start-up program, and for the future purchase of an EMS Quick Response Vehicle (pending upcoming budget constraints); and finally our International Association of Firefighters Local 4586.

Robert L. Gill, District Fire Chief/CEO  
Pioneer Fire Protection District, Somerset, CA 95684-0128

Since 1980, serving the communities of Mt. Aukum, Fair Play, Outingdale, Grizzly Flats, Omo Ranch, Somerset and the Sand Ridge Corridor.