



Emergency First Responder Program for Butte Falls Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Since our former Emergency Medical Technician moved from the area we do not have the towns rescue Ambulance responding to calls and it has left a serious time gap till any trained medical personal will arrive in the area. In the event of a true medical emergencies time is of the essence and can mean the difference between a good versus poor outcome.

I am building a program that will have the fire department responding to medical emergencies in the Town and eventually the outlying area for 911 calls. Currently the fire department is not called out if it is a medical in nature except for auto accidents due to the potential for extrication and as such the first medically trained first responder are Mercy Flights ambulance. The time they arrive is based on many factors as their stations or posting locations are in Eagle Point and Shady Cove, IF they are at those locations. Many times they are further out of the area and times could be well in excess of 20 minutes before they can arrive.

In case you don't know me as I am fairly new to the area, I am Shane Smith and I have lived here in town for 2 years now. I was a Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) at a small volunteer fire department in 1984 and then moved to the Sacramento California area where I held positions as a EMT, Paramedic, Supervisor, instructor for the Paramedic program and my last career was as a cardiac technician for a telemetry-transplant floor at Sutter Memorial Hospital While I have not worked in health care since 2008, I do have a lot of experience working in a large urban environment and have been on thousands of calls. I thought I was done with that part of my life, and yet I see that this community has a serious problem if we do have a call that needs intervention quicker then Mercy Flights can provide it.

My program will have me going to a reentry program to certify as a Emergency Medical Technician in an accelerated program due to my experience. This level of care will provide the basic interventions that are so important till more advanced care can arrive.

I am working on grants, donations, and fund raisers, and so far it has been positive for the grants as I just obtained approval for a Fire Department Automatic Defibrillator from the John and Nora Darby Heart fund! We are also working with the Oregon Hero's program to pay for my school costs. I am also using what equipment we had left from the ambulance to use for the new program but we will not be using the ambulance as legally it is not licensed to transport patients and yet the yearly insurance is twice what the rest of the fire department vehicles cost. We will be using a fire department vehicle for response.

I do need support volunteers at this time who would like to assist with fund raisers as we will be needing to find funds to finish off the Jackson County EMS required equipment and medicines, communication gear, personal equipment, etc. There is also a need to paint the inside of the Ambulance barn training area and other misc items I could use help with.

In the future I do hope to hold CPR classes for the public and hopefully be able to teach the Emergency First Responder certification level classes.

Contact me or the town for any questions or comments.

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