

**Placerville Fire Protection Dist. Inc.**  
**Commissioners' Special Meeting Minutes**  
**August 31, 2026 6:00 pm at 204 Commercial Street, Idaho City, Idaho 83631**

6:00 pm - Call the meeting to order. Establish Quorum.  
Commissioners present: Rick Barber, William Longden, Tim Horting  
Staff Present: Secretary Kim Barker  
Pledge of Allegiance

**New Business:**

Alex Gross called the meeting to order at 6 PM. EBCED and PFPD quorum established. A letter was received from former Chief Andrew Bourret; the meeting was called to discuss potential conflicts between agencies, patient protocols on scene, and treatment of medical staff.

EBCED expressed appreciation for PFPD and shared examples of on scene practices that need to change for patient and personnel safety. Examples included: avoid using devices like watches to measure heart rate or other stats; avoid health assessments; avoid diagnosing or otherwise making statements about patient condition. Readings or diagnoses that are in error can tie up medical resources unnecessarily and put others with urgent need at risk. EBCED also shared PFPD was reported to have told ambulance staff when to run lights/sirens and to go faster; Idaho law regulates these actions and they are permitted in life threatening conditions.

Ambulance staff reported arriving on scene to find PFPD vehicles blocking access; ambulances typically need to back-in; there have been reports that air-med has been called directly by PFPD and EBCED staff are not told. State Comm requires an air-med dispatch call from Medical. When air-med is called outside of protocol, an air-med resource can be consumed when it is better used elsewhere (for example, an air-med was unnecessarily called out consuming a resource that may have prevented a death at Bogus Basin). The EMT on scene is authorized to call or cancel air-med.

Other examples include PFPD reportedly changing the landing zone without letting the ambulance know; if there is a change of landing zone, the fire department can call the ambulance and report the change and reason. Chief T Longden shared that Jordan Jones is working with people to designate off-road landing zones; EBCED trains their people that if in route, defer to the fire department- any changes just need to be communicated. One of the EBCED members shared that some flight pilots may choose the best landing zone based on skill, location, and the patient or based on what their agencies permit. EBCED shared EMTs may recommend a specific air-med based on what the service can deliver.

EBCED shared that if PFPD is called out for medical, the ambulance is to so communication between PFPD and the ambulance directly will streamline communications; no reasons to through State Comm or Dispatch.

Commissioner Horting asked when PFPD arrives on scene first, what does EBCED need to know. Mari responded: is the patient alert, looking at you, cold/sweaty; what is their position. Commissioner Horting asked to have this kind of information sent to the Chief so it can be shared. Alex added such information can help the ambulance driver make decisions on driving speed.

EBCED asked what concerns PFPD has. Chief T Longden reiterated the department just wants to know the expectations and to bring this into training scenarios. Commissioner Barber asked about collecting/sharing patient information; Mari responded that all patient information is protected and cannot be shared. Mari reiterated the information collected needs to be limited to patient appearance as stated. Alex mentioned that if a patient has their own monitors, their own stats then that information can be shared in context of the patient having collected/reported the information.

EBCED also shared reports of patients being told to call PFPD first rather than the ambulance. The Fire Chief and Commissioner Longden both replied that PFPD says call 911.

EBCED staff are drug and alcohol tested. Ambulance staff have reported that some fire fighters in other districts have appeared to have been drinking or smoking marijuana. Alex shared it's the EMT or patient care-giver's call on

whether a member of another agency is in a state to care for a patient and to call off as needed. Chief T Longden responded they have the same protocol for fire fighters that arrive on scene impaired.

Mari shared materials that will be shared with all the fire departments in the area. Commissioner Longden asked if EBCED has an open-house day for hands-on experiences with fire departments; same question of air-med. EBCED has open-houses; they can also come to PFPD for events similar to those they had in Idaho City.

EBCED encouraged PFPD to use EBCED's PPE when needed and provided tips for how PFPD can assist in medical emergencies:

- Leading the ambulance in without losing the ambulance
- Clear the way into the home or area to the patient..
- Identifying optimal routes into patient location or if the ambulance won't make it in, a meet point.
- Meeting the ambulance to deliver the patient update instead of giving it in front of the patient.
- Keeping patients informed on when the ambulance will arrive.
- Collect patient meds, IDs, physical copy of DNR (only if a patient or family member brings it up), and insurance cards. This information is all HIPPA protected, so just centralize it for purposes of efficiency.
- Open communication between the Fire Chief and Mari.

### Executive Session

Executive session § 74-206 (a)(b) \*

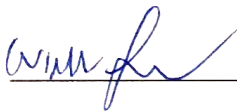
Alex moved to enter an executive session at 6:40 pm for personnel discussion; EBCED staff seconded and approved the motion. Commissioner Horting moved to enter an executive session; PFPD staff seconded and approved the motion.

Alex ended the executive session with no action required at 7:00 pm then adjourned the meeting. Commissioner William then adjourned the meeting.

\* = Action Item

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**MINUTES APPROVED** by the Board of Commissioners of the Placerville Fire Protection District this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2026.



William Longden, Chairperson



Kim Barker, District Secretary