

#EducationMatters

A weekly highlight of the programs of Plumas Unified School District and supported by the County Office of Education

Plumas Unified continues to collaborate with Plumas County Dispatch to support Children and Adults with Disabilities



From Left to Right: Dispatcher Zoe Stancer, Assistant Fire Chief Frank Carey, Patrol Commander Todd Johns, student Davis Friden, PUSD Education Specialist Jennifer Kimball, SELPA Director Laura Blesse.

This is a reminder that Plumas Unified School District is still actively accepting families and individuals' disability information to input into the Plumas County Dispatch system. Please contact any Special Education teacher at any PUSD elementary school to sign up.

In the event of an emergency, it's important that First Responders have as much information as

possible to respond effectively and efficiently. When it comes to addressing emergencies with individuals on the Autism Spectrum and students and adults with intellectual or physical disabilities, it's of great importance to have this information in order to respond most appropriately.

Dispatch can play a key role in helping to determine the proper staff and equipment needed to respond to an emergency. When First Responders are aware of the disabilities and deficits that are present in individuals prior to arriving at the scene, the emergency can be swiftly and adequately handled. For example, knowing that a person in danger may be nonverbal, or verbal with social deficits can be vital to help the First Responders know how to best address the situation.

Unfortunately, in most cases dispatch only has information on a limited number of the disabled population, which includes the blind and elderly. In order to support a larger disabled population, PUSD is partnering with Plumas County Dispatch to collect adult's and children's disability information to be logged and saved in the dispatch system.

Jennifer Kimball and Laura Blesse are the brainpower behind this life-saving idea. Kimball is a PUSD Special Education teacher and the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN) Representative for Plumas Unified. Laura Blesse is the PUSD Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) Director. Their goal is to enhance Plumas County's resources, awareness, and support for those on the Autism spectrum and those with other disabilities.

Plumas County Dispatch is partnering with PUSD as a public service to the community and is more than happy to be given the information to input. In the future, Kimball hopes to also do trainings and workshops with First Responders to educate them on various mental and physical disabilities.

To sign up families, parents, and community members are encouraged to contact Special Education Teachers at their local PUSD elementary school. Information collected will pertain to any particular disability, including the participants name, birthday, address, type of disability, and the severity of the disability, along with any other relevant information, including behavioral triggers. All information will be securely delivered to Plumas County Dispatch to input into their system.

Note that it is up to the parent or adult to update this information if the child or individual moves locations. It is recommended that to ensure ultimate safety anyone with a disability should always have a landline.

For any further information or questions contact Jennifer Kimball at jkimball@pcoe.k12.ca.us