

Alarming Spike of Suicides/Attempts Increases in Del Norte

September 10, 2024



Sheriff Garrett Scott shared some very distressing news from August.

The Sheriff / Coroner reported in just under a week, there have been two suicides, at least two suicide attempts that were responded to and several Del Norters reporting someone talking about committing suicide. These red flags are alarming and increasing, according to Scott. Here's the latest sobering chronology:

- Thursday, August 22, a 55 year old Klamath resident was found deceased in his home due to a self-inflicted strangulation with a noose around his neck.
- August 22, a 59 year old Crescent City man was riding his motorcycle on 199 South when he reportedly shot himself in the head and drove off the road, just south of Gasquet. He later died en route to Sutter Coast Hospital.
- Sunday, August 25, a 45 year old Crescent City man attempted suicide by hanging himself from a tree. CPR was performed and he was transported by Ambulance for further medical care, and reportedly is still in the hospital.

- Monday August 26, Sheriff's Dispatch received a call from a 23 year old Crescent City woman that she had consumed a half-bottle of unidentified pills about two hours prior to her calling and was transported to Sutter Coast. Her status is unknown.

- Thursday. August 30, another suicide attempt was made in the Preston Island parking lot. At approximately 8am, a 35-year old woman dialed 9-1-1. The family expressed emergency concern and went looking for her. The unidentified woman still in her vehicle, was coherent. She had ingested an excess of prescribed medications in an admitted effort to end her life. Recognition and praise was given to Sheriff Deputy Good and Sheriff Scott, along with Del Norte Ambulance and Crescent Fire expediently responded. The woman was transferred to Sutter Coast. She will survive. The Dept. of Mental Health responded to Sutter Coast.

More sobering statistics:

- In 2023, The Coroner reported four deaths ruled as suicide.
- To date. Sheriff/Coroner Scott states two-thirds through 2024, six deaths have been recorded as suicides in Del Norte County.

Regrettably, Suicides and Attempts at taking of one's life is on the rise. Five percent rise in ages 10 to 85. Shockingly the largest bracket is among the elderly, predominantly among elderly men. The Center for Disease Control reports some 50,000 folks, mostly men committ suicide, annually. The National rate of suicide is 14.8 deaths per 100,000 population. The sober statistic comes a National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey from 2021. The cause of death is ranked 11th in the USA. Del Norte County ranks on the upper half of this Ignominious statistic.

The questions screams to asked, why is there a spate of suicide attempts. The reasons are many and varied. In the coming weeks, The Triplicate will be reporting this shocking dynamic of suicide.

The City recognized September as Suicide Awareness and Prevention month, at its September 3 meeting, encouraging all citizens to learn that warning signs, trust their gut and use that information to ask a troubled friend, colleague or family member. "R U OK" and be prepared to listen. That conversation could change a life.