
County First Responders Busy over July 4th Weekend

By Linda Sutter July 16, 2026

The long Fourth of July holiday weekend proved anything but quiet for Del Norte County's first responders. Between July 3 and July 5, the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office, working alongside local police, fire departments, emergency medical personnel, California Highway Patrol, and other public safety agencies, responded to an extraordinary number of incidents throughout the county.

While I have not yet totaled the exact number of calls for service, one thing is abundantly clear after reviewing the incident summary: our law enforcement officers and emergency responders certainly were not "growing mold."

The three-day period included a relentless stream of calls ranging from medical emergencies and fires to assaults, thefts, burglaries, suspicious activity, welfare checks, mental health crises, traffic incidents, missing persons, juvenile calls, civil disputes, and countless follow-up investigations.

The Independence Day celebrations added another layer of responsibility. Deputies provided security details for community events, including the Crescent City Fourth of July Parade, while simultaneously handling the normal demands of policing one of California's largest geographic counties. Fire agencies responded repeatedly to reports of fires, smoke investigations, and alarm activations as holiday activities increased throughout the weekend.

Medical calls remained one of the most frequent requests for service, with emergency personnel responding to incidents at residences, campgrounds, businesses, nursing facilities, beaches, RV parks, and public gathering places across the county. Officers also investigated multiple assaults, thefts, vehicle burglaries, suspicious persons and vehicles, domestic disturbances, and mental health-related calls requiring immediate intervention.

The incident log also demonstrates the broad geographic responsibility carried by Del Norte County's public safety agencies. Calls stretched from Crescent City and Smith River to Fort Dick, Klamath, Gasquet, South Beach, Lake Earl, Hiouchi, and numerous rural locations where deputies often travel significant distances to provide assistance. Often overlooked is the amount of proactive policing reflected in these reports. Deputies conducted numerous patrols, pedestrian checks, vehicle checks, welfare checks, follow-up investigations, and directed patrols throughout the county. These activities frequently prevent crimes before they occur while increasing visibility in the community.

The incident summary serves as a reminder that public safety is a 24-hour responsibility. While many residents and visitors spent the holiday enjoying family gatherings, beaches, fireworks, and celebrations, first responders remained on duty around the clock, answering call after call with little opportunity for downtime. Whether one agrees with every decision made by law enforcement, the incident log tells its own story. The men and women wearing the badge, driving ambulances, and responding in fire apparatus spent the holiday weekend doing exactly what taxpayers expect of them—protecting the community whenever and wherever they were needed.

For anyone who believes law enforcement has little to do in Del Norte County, the July 3 through July 5 incident summary provides compelling evidence to the contrary. It was a demanding holiday weekend, and our first responders earned the community's appreciation for the work they performed under often challenging circumstances.