



CITY OF CHICO FIRE DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 3420
Chico, California 95927
(530) 897-3400

10/21/25 - The Chico Fire Department's response to email from Sade Pullen with Action News Now regarding chained fences during lunch at Chico High School:

The Chico Fire Department is aware of the special precautions taken during Chico High School's lunch hours. Our personnel have been present during these times and have not observed the use of chains to secure gates. Some gates were temporarily secured and/or actively monitored by school staff during the lunch period as necessary.

It is our understanding that the site safety plan is consistently followed throughout the school day, and appropriate evacuation procedures are in place should they be needed.

Per the California Code of Regulations (Title 19, Division 1, Chapter 1, Subsection 3.16), school campuses may be enclosed provided the following conditions are met:

- Gates are installed in fences and walls.
- Gates are appropriately sized to allow access for police, fire, and paramedic personnel.
- Multiple gates ensure access to all major buildings and grounds.
- All gates are equipped for emergency access via Knox Box, accessible first by the Fire Department and subsequently by other first responders.

Chico High School meets all of these provisions.

In the event of a fire or other emergency requiring evacuation, California Building and Fire Code Chapter 10, Section 1028.5 allows for the use of a safe dispersal area in lieu of direct access to a public way. This approach is commonly used by schools of all grade levels to ensure safe and orderly evacuation. Chico High School has designated areas capable of accommodating evacuation from one or multiple buildings.

In the case of an active shooter response, collaborative planning with local authorities supports the use of evacuation or shelter-in-place models, depending on the specific circumstances and needs at the time.

Additional Supporting Information:

- Fire Department preplanning was updated in 2025.
- Annual fire code inspections have been conducted consistently for the past 11 years.

Fire Station 1

842 Salem Street
(530) 897-3411

Fire Station 2

182 E. 5th Ave.
(530) 897-3422

Fire Station 4

2405 Notre Dame Blvd.
(530) 897-3444

Fire Station 5

1777 Manzanita Ave.
(530) 897-3455