



Sheriff Daniel V. Covault

684 County Road 63L
Telluride, Colorado 81435

Letter of Recommendation in Support of a Fire Training Tower

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the financing and construction of a fire training tower for the Telluride Fire Department. This project represents a critical investment not only in firefighter preparedness, but in the overall safety, coordination, and resilience of our entire community.

A dedicated training tower would provide a centralized, purpose-built environment for multi-agency training, allowing fire personnel, search and rescue (SAR), and law enforcement to train together under realistic conditions. In today's complex emergency environment, coordinated response across disciplines is not a luxury—it is a necessity.

From a fire service perspective, the tower would allow for enhanced structure fire training, giving firefighters the opportunity to practice tactics in a controlled yet realistic vertical environment. This type of hands-on training is essential to improving response times, decision-making, and ultimately saving lives and property.

The facility would also support critical technical skills such as rappelling and patient movement, benefiting both fire and SAR personnel. These capabilities are especially important in our region, where terrain and access challenges demand a high level of proficiency in vertical rescue operations.

For law enforcement and fire personnel alike, the tower would provide opportunities for forcible entry training, ensuring coordinated and effective access during emergencies. Law enforcement would further benefit from the ability to conduct building clearing and security operations, as well as search and seizure training, in a realistic, multi-level structure.

Equally important is the opportunity to strengthen incident command training across all responding agencies. A shared training environment fosters communication, leadership development, and unified command practices that are vital during large-scale or high-risk incidents.

Beyond training, the broader impact of this project is clear. A fire training tower directly enhances community safety and security by ensuring that first responders are better prepared, better coordinated, and more capable in emergency situations. Additionally, by providing a local, high-quality training facility, we are keeping our emergency service personnel training within our community, reducing the need for travel while strengthening local readiness and collaboration.

In summary, this project is not simply a facility—it is an investment in preparedness, interagency cooperation, and the safety of every resident and visitor in our region. I strongly encourage approval and support for the financing and construction of this much-needed training tower.

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Daniel V. Covault
Sheriff
San Miguel County Sheriff's Office