



Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority

Forth Quarter 2015 (October– December)
E-Newsletter

Our Mission:

*Committed to
community service
through leadership,
vision, and integrity.*

Fire Chief's Message

Chief Ken Woods



Welcome to this quarter's addition of our newsletter. This will be my last article as Fire Chief as I retire January 29, 2016. Over the past 7 ½ years I've been privileged to have served as the Fire Chief for Humboldt No.1 Fire Protection District from 2008 to 2011, and then as Fire Chief of Humboldt Bay Fire with the formation and consolidation in 2011 between the Humboldt No.1 Fire District and the City of Eureka Fire Department in 2011.

I'm very proud of the accomplishments Humboldt Bay Fire has made over these past four years including significant cost savings for the community which reduced operating costs while at the same time improving service. These improvements included the introduction of Advanced Life Support service by placing Paramedics on our fire apparatus and this brought the highest level of care outside of a hospital emergency room directly to our community's door. The purchase of a new ladder truck which changed the way we operate at fires making us more efficient and effective than ever before and thereby reducing fire losses. The establishment of a state recognized Urban Search and Rescue team and enhanced training and development of our water rescue team. We also expanded our ability to help our neighbors with mutual aid and automatic aid agreements and finally the purchase of a new smaller squad vehicle to respond on medical calls.

Of course we've experienced challenges as well during these times with the cutting of our budget by the City of Eureka due to their own financial troubles. This has required us to close one of our stations on a part time basis and unfortunately the future shows no improvement in the City's funding of essential emergency services.

Yet in spite of these economic challenges, most of all I've been very pleased and appreciative of the community's support throughout our consolidation process. Though it was talked about for over fifty years we were able to make it a reality in a very short period of time and the advantages as mentioned have been numerous. When we started down the road of consolidation we knew that it had to be beneficial to both the residents of Humboldt No. 1 Fire District and the City of Eureka and I believe we fulfilled that goal. I know that our greatest asset is our reputation and that is because we have to earn it every single day. Our employees have truly embraced our mission of being "Committed to community service through leadership, vision and integrity" and live it each day. They constantly demonstrate customer service and take it to new heights. Whether it's helping fire victims not only during but also after a fire, installing a car seat, distributing toys at Christmas, helping an elderly couple get home after a vehicle accident, installing a lock on a broken door so a mom can feel safe, or helping someone who has run out of gas... I could go on and on but community service is a part of the culture of Humboldt Bay Fire.

As I leave I'm confident knowing that my successor Assistant Chief Bill Gillespie believes in the same customer service mission and that he along with the rest of the staff will continue to move the organization forward far beyond where it is today.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve our community these past several years, and as I have heard time and time again, you appreciate and place a high value on having competent and capable emergency services. With that I believe it is more important now than ever before to you let your elected leaders hear your voice that these emergency services need to be an ongoing priority and not an afterthought.

Ken Woods, Fire Chief



“Share the Magic of Christmas” The HBF Firefighters Local 652 Annual Toy Drive

Humboldt Bay Fire kicked off our annual “Share the Magic of Christmas” Toy Drive at The Bayshore Mall on Nov. 27, 2015. Firefighters escorted Santa Claus through the mall to Santa’s Pavilion where children had the opportunity to have their picture taken with Santa Claus and local firefighters. We also staffed a crew at the Humboldt Artisans Craft Fair where we received a generous outpouring of donations from the local community. We partnered with numerous local businesses who acted as drop-off locations for toy donations.

Our Toy Drive is the oldest and longest running toy drive in Humboldt County. Firefighters began in the 1920’s by collecting and fixing old toys for local, underprivileged children. Using their own money on their days off, firefighters collected broken bicycles, dolls, etc. and refurbished them to like new. This tradition has continued to grow ever since and we now partner with The Salvation Army to distribute toys to children in our community that may not otherwise receive a new toy for Christmas. This event continues to be funded by firefighters from their own pockets as well as through generous support and donations from local area businesses and citizens. All the toys collected are distributed to local children in Humboldt County. We were able to donate over 2,000 toys this year, along with a check for \$1,4000. This event provides an opportunity for citizens and firefighters to “Share The Magic Of Christmas” and do something positive for local children.

We also accepted cash donations for the “Santa for Seniors” program. All funds collected through this program go to help support the Humboldt Senior Resource Center’s “White Bag” Program. This great program provides local Senior citizens, many of whom have little to no contact with others, with a holiday bag that has been decorated by local school children. The bags are filled with treats for the holidays as well as a warm, nutritious meal. We were able to raise over \$1,400 this year.

In addition to toys and money donations, Humboldt Bay Firefighters and their families help put together food boxes, which contained a Christmas dinner, for families.

Humboldt Bay Firefighters would like to thank the fire dept, the city of Eureka, all off the businesses that had toy barrels, the members of the local and ladies auxiliary who participated on and off duty and all of the citizens who donated toys and money, if it wasn't for the participation of the whole community the toy drive wouldn't be the success that it is.



Response Statistics

Structure Fire/Explosion	25
Vehicle Fire	8
Rubbish/Vegetation Fire	16
Medical Aid Response	839
Extrication/Water Rescue	4
Animal Rescue	0
Haz Mat/Combustible Spill	10
Other Hazards Response	61
Other/Service Call/False Alarm	519
Second Quarter Total	1,466
2015 YTD Total	5,895

Anniversaries & Retirements

Anniversaries:

- Captain Chris Kemp, 25yrs (October)
- Engineer P.J. Lynch, 15yrs (October)
- Captain Michael Landry, 12 yrs (October)
- Chief Kenneth Woods, 7yrs (October)
- Firefighter/Paramedic Don Penn, 7 yrs (November)
- Firefighter Kyle Brown, 2 yr (October)
- Firefighter Chris Alexander, 2 yr (October)

Retirements:

- Jan Gillespie, 36 yrs (October)
- Captain Michael Bakke, 32 yrs (November)

CPR Classes (707) 441-4000

CPR and AED for Adults, Children, and Infants \$30

- January 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- January 26, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- February 9, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- February 23, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- March 8, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- March 22, 2016, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- April 26, 2016, 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.

CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults \$60

- January 9, 2016, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- February 13, 2016, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- March 12, 2016, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.





Humboldt Bay Fire has recently promoted two of its members to new positions

Michael Landry was promoted to the position of Fire Captain on November 26, 2015. Michael has been with the department for the past 19 years. He has previously held the position of Volunteer Firefighter, Firefighter, and Engineer. Michael received the Volunteer of the Year award in 1997. In addition to his regular job duties, Michael serves as a Fire Investigator with Humboldt Bay Fire, and is the incoming Vice President of Humboldt Bay Firefighters Local #652.

William "Bill" Reynolds was promoted to the position of Deputy Fire Chief on January 4, 2016. Bill has been with the department for the past 22 years. Bill was raised in the fire service as his father retired in 1997 as a Fire Captain with 33 years of service. He has worked up through the ranks, having held the position of Volunteer Firefighter, Firefighter, Engineer, Captain, Administrative Captain, and Battalion Chief. Bill is also a past public safety dispatcher, having served with Eureka Police and Fire dispatch four years. Bill has served as a fire investigator, a Fire Prevention Officer, and brings considerable experience in fire department administration, operations and fire suppression.

The Deputy Fire Chief position will fill the previous Assistant Fire Chief position. The Battalion Chief position being vacated by Reynolds' promotion will not be filled, and will bring Humboldt Bay Fire within one position of the administrative deployment model recommended by the Citygate Consolidation Study in 2012.



Pictured Behind Truck 8181
On the left, Captain Michael Landry and
on the right Deputy Chief Bill Reynolds

Congratulations! Thank you for your
dedication and service to Humboldt Bay Fire!



Firefighter In Focus

Authorized Duty Captain Nick Launius



I moved to Eureka from San Diego when I was 9 years old. To say that I went through a 'culture shock' upon moving here was putting it mildly, especially after that first hypothermic trip to the beach in the fog! My mom and I moved around a lot after moving to Eureka. While that was inconvenient at the time, it helped me tremendously when I was studying response district geography to become an engineer.

After graduating from high school in 1996, I was not at all sure of what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I worked in a restaurant from the time I was a freshman in high school until I was twenty years old. Knowing how to cook would prove to be more than just a basic life skill in my career in the fire service, which began in the spring of 2002. My wife Meredith and I were living in El Paso, Texas, during the summer and fall of 2001, which was a very active fire season in California. Meredith's step-father, current Humboldt Bay Fire Engineer Rick Lahargoue, was working for CalFire during that time as an Engineer. I heard second hand about his exploits in the historic fire siege of 2001 and was hooked. Meredith and I moved back to Eureka and I began training that winter.

I got a job working for CalFire (which was called CDF Fire back then) in the summer of 2002. I worked four seasons, split between Alderpoint and Garberville Fire Stations. I became a Volunteer Firefighter with the City of Eureka Fire Department after my first season, again following in the footsteps of my father-in-law, who by then was a career City of Eureka Firefighter. I was hired as a Firefighter by EFD in 2006. I worked up the ranks to my current position of Duty Authorized Captain.

I enjoy spending my free time with my wife and Alicia, our eleven year old daughter, being active outdoors, hiking, camping, or fishing. We enjoy travelling up the Oregon coast and spending time at Ruth Lake, where my parents live. During the summer months I can be found pretty regularly at the Arcata Ballpark cheering for the Humboldt Crabs. I am also pursuing a college degree from Columbia Southern University.

Overall, I consider myself extremely lucky to be able to serve my community alongside my fellow firefighters, who are some of the best and bravest people I have ever known.



Dispatcher In Focus

Julie



Meet Julie! A 2-year dispatcher for the Eureka Police and Humboldt Bay Fire Department.

Julie was born and raised in McKinleyville, California where she attended Bloomfield Elementary, McKinleyville High School, College of the Redwoods and then later moved to Ventura County for further schooling. While in high school Julie received an International Baccalaureate certificate in Chemistry and was selected as the Soroptimist International of McKinleyville Girl of the Month. She also played on the varsity golf team for three years earning herself a scholar athlete award.

Prior to dispatching, Julie learned the value of having a strong work ethic early on in life when she began helping at her family owned office supply store at the age of 14. At 16, she became a part-time employee working after school and on weekends. What she loved the most was getting to know many great people and building relationships within the community. She also really enjoyed seeing the support from so many people that wanted to help her and her family grow their business.

So how did she become a dispatcher? Two years ago, Julie moved back from Ventura County in search of a job. She looked at many job announcements, applied for some and was, in turn, offered jobs. She accepted none of them stating they didn't feel like the right fit for her. Her Dad later brought her the job announcement for the dispatch position for EPD/HBF. After a sit-along in the dispatch center, Julie was sold and knew instantly this was the career for her.

One of Julie's fondest memories as a dispatcher was a day in which the dispatch center received multiple calls for an extrication at the south end of Eureka followed by a structure fire at the north end of Eureka. Both types of calls are full responses from the fire department and the structure fire was soon upgraded to a second alarm (meaning more resources were needed to battle the blaze). As the fire dispatcher, Julie quickly had fire personnel responding to both incidents while also handling a large volume of incoming calls for the emergencies. Julie and her partner then worked diligently with the battalion to arrange for proper and timely coverage of the city from allied agencies.

What Julie loves most about dispatching is the ever changing environment that is presented on a day to day basis noting that no two calls received are ever the same. She also enjoys problem solving by figuring out the most efficient, effective and permanent solution to aid or fix a situation.

In her free time, Julie enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, Nathan, fly fishing (she learned when she was 13 years old after her dad taught her the art of it by throwing a hula-hoop in their front yard), traveling to the snow, camping and enjoying many of the beautiful attractions that Humboldt offers.

Julie has been a huge asset to the EPD/HBF dispatch center with her outgoing personality and her strong work ethic. Having just installed a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, Julie spent many hours studying and learning the system to assist her fellow co-workers in a smooth transition.



Winter Home Safety

As we move in to the heart of Winter the single most important item to consider is being prepared. This will help keep you safe, warm, and cozy as it's blowing and raining outside. With cold winter temperatures there is an increased use of fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, and other alternative heating methods. There are an increased number of fires and other emergencies caused by heating appliances due to more usage. The following tips can help you maintain a safe home this winter.

Install a carbon monoxide detector. Malfunctioning or improperly installed heating appliances can leak carbon monoxide gas, as can generators. Outdoor heating appliances should only be used outside. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors. If you have to use a generator for power, only run it outdoors and away from windows and doors. Also, do not refuel generators while they are running. Early in my career as an officer with Humboldt Bay Fire I had the unfortunate opportunity to respond to a multi-casualty incident at a single family residence involving an entire family who was suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. The call originated as a routine medical call but as the firefighters were treating the patient with the worst signs and symptoms, the firefighters began to develop headaches and dizziness. We removed all people from the residence to fresh air. We then monitored the atmosphere with our monitors and found that the carbon monoxide levels were several times higher than safe limits. Eight people in this family were transported and treated for varying levels of exposure to the gas. Upon further investigation, it was found that a brand new furnace had been installed improperly causing the carbon monoxide levels to elevate. As the temperatures dropped, the furnace was being used more and more until the levels began to affect the health of the occupants. If they had only had a carbon monoxide alarm, they could have avoided a very close call. An alarm would have sounded and

indicated the levels were unsafe, most likely triggering the occupants to contact the fire department or Pacific Gas and Electric. Fortunately for the family, because they called for the medical aid, we were able to identify and eliminate this silent killer from their home. To help avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and to aid in lowering heating bills, have your furnace inspected annually to ensure that it is in good working condition. Maintain a 3 foot separation between things that can burn and heating equipment, including checking floor heaters to make sure they are not covered by floor coverings or other combustibles. If you are using portable space heaters as a source of heat, install and use them according to the manufacturer's instructions. Extension cords shouldn't be used for an electric-powered space heater. Remember to keep young children away from heaters and stoves— especially when they are wearing pajamas or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

The Greater Eureka area has a higher rate of floor furnace fires than other areas of California as these types of heating appliances are more common here. The causes of floor furnace fires that we at Humboldt Bay Fire have responded to are due to combustibles being placed on or too close to the floor furnace. Many people believe that when the thermostat to the appliance is turned all the way down the appliance is off. This is incorrect. When the thermostat is all the way down, it is simply in the lowest temperature setting. Even if it's set low, colder temperatures at night can cause the furnace to come on. If there are area rugs or other materials over it or nearby, this can lead to a fire. Always keep combustibles at least three feet from the grate of the furnace.

If you have a fuel burning appliance, such as Kerosene, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide, and only use the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. Refueling should be done outside of the home. Kerosene heaters should never be filled while the heater while is operating or hot. Follow manufacturer's instructions. In this area many people still utilize wood to heat their homes. If you have a wood stove, have the stove and flue inspected and cleaned annually. Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly with proper clearances. Always keep a screen in front of the fireplace opening and keep combustible materials away from the fireplace or stove. When starting a fire only use paper or

Battalion Chief Chris Emmons

kindling to start the fire and never use flammable liquids in the fireplace or stove. To avoid a buildup of creosote, use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove. Artificial logs should not be used in wood stoves. When you clean your fireplace or woodstove, allow the ashes to cool before disposing of them in a metal container. Every year we encounter fires caused by ashes being disposed of in paper bags or plastic containers which will melt.

Additionally, here are a few more general safety tips. First, if you can avoid going out in inclement weather do so. However, if you must go out, plan for additional time to get there as the roads may be slick. If you encounter flooded roads, don't try to drive through the water. Vehicles can be swept away with just a few inches of flowing water. Higher water can also cause a vehicle to stall. Always remember to drive with your headlights on in poor weather to make your vehicle more visible.

On those windy days, limbs and debris may blow and can also make high profile vehicles more unstable or difficult to drive. Power lines, cable and phone lines may also come down in higher winds. Never approach a down line as it may be energized. Energized lines can look the same as de-energized lines.

If you have any questions about these safety tips, please give us a call at Humboldt Bay Fire at 441-4000 and we will be happy to help you prepare.





Equipment In Focus

Squad 8174

On October 1st Humboldt Bay Fire placed a two-person rescue squad in to service as part of a three month evaluation period for a potentially improved response model for Humboldt Bay Fire. The apparatus is a refurbished 2002 Horton Medium Duty Rescue vehicle which will respond to all fires, rescues, and calls for medical service in the Fire Station 1 (Downtown/Old Town areas) and Fire Station 4 (Myrtle Town) response areas. The squad has equipment on it such as self-contained breathing apparatus, forcible entry tools, and rescue equipment. It is also configured as a medical response vehicle but is not intended for transport as City Ambulance of Eureka provides medical transport.

Since the temporary closure of Fire Station 4 in July, the squad was purchased to provide service to that area, as well as reducing the response load for Fire Station 1 which is the busiest station in Humboldt Bay Fire's response area as well as the county. The squad was housed at Fire Station 1 at 533 C St. in Eureka, along with a truck company during October-November 2015. Currently is housed at Station 4. For any fires or rescues, the squad is dispatched as part of the response. The two person company, comprised of a company officer and firefighter, has the capabilities to perform search and rescue, forcible entry, containment of small fires until the engines and truck with larger crews and equipment caches, pumps, and hoses arrive.

The squad cost approximately \$30,000 dollars and has already demonstrated that it can reduce the workload on the much larger tiller truck, saving on maintenance costs and keeping it available for fires, rescues, and additional calls for service.



Humboldt Bay Fire is on Facebook!! For updates go "like" our page www.facebook.com/humboldtбайfire