



Humboldt Bay Fire News Release

533 C St.
Eureka, CA 95501
(707) 441-4000

July 21, 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject : HBF Trains on Rural Water Supply Drills

Contact : Amy Conlin, Community Risk Reduction Specialist, 707-441-4000

This week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Humboldt Bay Fire and Kneeland Fire District are training together on responding to fires in rural locations with water access issues.

The lack of close by fire hydrants, coupled with access complications such as long, narrow driveways and limited working space make fires in rural homes such as those between Freshwater Corners and Indianola, Elk River Road, and Greenwood Heights Drive a challenge for fire crews. These are some of the lower frequency, higher risk incidents that are so important to train on; The most recent such incident was on May 19, 2020 on Ole Hanson Road.

For this drill, crews are “dispatched” to a vehicle on fire in the garage of a rural home located up a steep driveway without a hydrant nearby. Recognizing the location of the call and cross-referencing that with their knowledge of hydrant locations in the area, crews quickly request water tenders- apparatus that specialize in the transport of water from a water source like a fire hydrant to the fire scene. This consistent water delivery from the tenders, in addition to tapping into the home owners’ rural water tanks, supplies the fire attack crew with enough water to knock down the fire and achieve fire control.

These techniques are involved and take the combined teamwork and effort from every responding crew to make it work. From setting up a rural water supply line to the pumping engine, to constant refill of the portable tank, the coordination is impressive and takes constant communication.

Training opportunities such as this with our partner agencies is crucial in keeping crews from all agencies working together to best serve our community. Humboldt Bay Fire would like to thank Kneeland Fire District and the homeowners who volunteered their property for this training. We would also like to remind rural homeowners of the importance of maintaining your fire suppression rural water tank and 100 feet of defensible space around your property.

If you would like your fire suppression rural water tank inspected or would like to request a pre-plan of your property, please contact Humboldt Bay Fire at 707-441-4000.

#####