



## Humboldt Bay Fire News Release

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September 13, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Subject :** Vandalism of the Fallen Firefighter Memorial, Eureka CA

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On the morning of September 13, 2021, just two days after concluding a September 11 tribute at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Eureka, Humboldt Bay Firefighters discovered the site had been vandalized.

Black spray paint now covers the helmet of the statue, dripping down toward the turnout bottoms and boots of the sculpture. Illegible words and figures in the same black paint mar the beautiful brick work surrounding the memorial.

This is the fourth transgression of which we are aware directed toward a local fire department in the last month. On August 15, the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department was broken into and a 4-wheeler was stolen. On September 9, Samoa Peninsula Fire District was broken into and several tools were stolen. On September 12, Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Department was broken into, resulting in broken windows, damaged property, and stolen cash.

We are discouraged, disheartened, and disappointed that someone would deface this important memorial, especially right after the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11, a date that is held so dearly in the hearts of the fire community and American public. We are even more alarmed at this recent swell of crime that seems to be targeting local fire agencies. Please, if anyone has any information on the above crimes, contact your local law enforcement agency. If anyone has information or camera footage related to the vandalism of the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Eureka, CA, please contact the Eureka Police Department to update the open case.

Humboldt Bay Fire and City of Eureka crews will be at the memorial site this afternoon to clean and restore the site to its former glory. We want to thank the City of Eureka and the Eureka Police Department for their assistance and partnership.

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