



Humboldt Bay Fire News Release

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September 14, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject : Commercial Structure Fire, 1000 Block of West Hawthorne

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Just before 11:17am, employees of Humboldt Waste Management Authority's waste transfer station on the 1000 block of West Hawthorne Street saw smoke rising from a rubbish pile inside of their warehouse, triggering an evacuation and 911 response.

Humboldt Bay Fire crews coalesced on the scene in a commercial structure fire response. The Incident Commander quickly upgraded the fire to a commercial second alarm after arriving on scene and reporting heavy fire and smoke billowing from the eaves of the structure and understanding that the facility serves as critical infrastructure for the community. The second alarm pulled in resources from other local fire departments including an additional ladder truck for help on scene and coverage for calls in Eureka and the greater Eureka area.

Crews were able to gain fire control and knock down the majority of the fire within the first 20 minutes. Shortly thereafter, as fans slowly ventilated the structure of smoke, a HWMA employee was able to assist crews in aerating the smoldering rubbish with an excavator allowing the crews to completely douse the pile and ensure no hot spots remained to re-ignite. The fire was contained to the interior of the Transfer stations, and there are no injuries or damages to report.

HWMA's Transfer Station will remain temporarily closed for the remainder of September 14, 2021 in order to allow for final mop-up activities and fire safety monitoring and will re-open on September 15 at 8:00am.

Humboldt Bay Fire and HWMA would like to remind the public to refrain from disposing any hot embers, coals, or items in the trash, as well as oily rags, flammable liquids, or electronics and batteries that may produce heat as these all pose great fire risk.

Humboldt Bay Fire would like to thank Arcata Fire Department, Samoa Peninsula Fire District, Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department, Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department, and Ferndale Fire Department for their assistance on scene and proving call coverage, as well as Eureka Police and Fire Dispatch and Cal Fire Emergency Command Center for taking the calls and coordinating resources.

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