



Humboldt Bay Fire News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject : HBF and HSI Encourage Leniency on CPR Recertifications in Light of COVID Restrictions

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Humboldt Bay Fire contracts with the Health & Safety Institute for all CPR & First Aid instruction to the public.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on in-person contact, we have pivoted from providing fully in-person CPR & First Aid instruction to offering a hybrid model consisting of online instruction and a brief in-person skills examination.

However, given the Purple Tier status of Humboldt County indicating rampant viral spread, we are no longer offering in-person skills tests for CPR (re)certifications, with very few exceptions.

The Health and Safety Institute recognizes the hardship that COVID-19 has placed on individuals attempting to (re)certify in CPR, and has extended their grace period to participate in a renewal course to 90 days. This means that HSI-certified cardholders may have an additional 90 days past their previously stated expiration date in order to recertify.

HSI states that they *“expect regulatory agencies and employers who require emergency care training and certification for licensing or employment to be reasonably lenient about expiration dates for certification,”* further going on to clarify that, *“leniency in this instance is the decision of employers and regulators, not HSI.”*

It is with this spirit of leniency and grace in the midst of this global pandemic that HBF stands with HSI encouraging our local businesses and regulatory agencies to consider leniency for employees in regards to their CPR (re)certifications this year.

HBF will continue to offer links to the online portion of CPR training, which will take most first-time certifiers between six and eight hours to complete. We will provide individuals who complete the online portion with a certificate indicating they have done so, and will hold that completion on file until Humboldt County returns to the yellow tier and may begin offering skills portion sign-offs once more. We encourage our local employers and regulators to consider this temporary alternative with the safety of their employees, the community, and our first responders in mind.

HBF's Community Risk Reduction Specialist will remain available for phone or zoom consultations with all CPR students to answer any questions that may arise during online training.

#CPRsavesLives #HumboldtTogether #HumCoCOVID

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