

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

1ST QUARTER (JANUARY-MARCH) 2024



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FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



2023 saw a call volume total of 7,403 calls for service, continuing into 2024 with a very busy first quarter including several structure fires, significant traffic collisions, and water rescues. Our training hours for 2023 totaled 10,509 hours with training several new firefighters, apparatus operators, and company officers.

We are still four positions short in our suppression ranks with three vacant permanent Engineer and one temporary Firefighter positions. We are working to fill those through a current open recruitment effort for both positions. We have fully implemented our Cadet Firefighter Program and have two successful recruits going through the program. We are almost ready to launch our Junior Firefighter Program that entails working with local high schools to provide career development opportunities and education for 16 to 18-year old's. Part of solving long-standing recruitment and retention issues is to spread the word to local folks about what a rewarding and fulfilling career this is and develop that local talent.

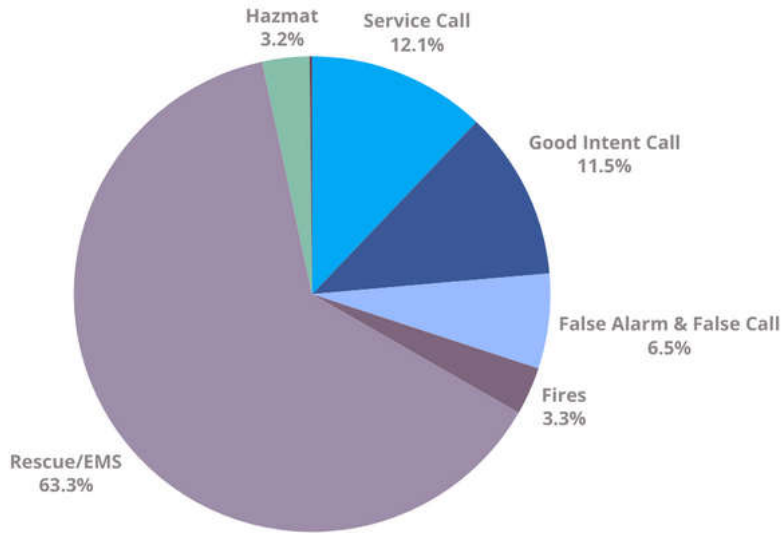
HBF had another busy winter with the extreme weather conditions, seeing a higher occurrence of flooding-related calls, traffic collisions, and fires. These incidents remind us to drive for the conditions and especially to slow down when encountering extreme weather such as snow and ice which we rarely see along the coast. In addition, it is important to be vigilant and never leave cooking food or items unattended on a stove, candles, or open-flame near combustibles, and multiple appliances plugged into the same electrical outlet! Practicing fire safety in the home is a responsibility we all bear in protecting ourselves, our loved ones, and our community.

Please stop by to find out how we can help you perform a safety assessment for your home or workplace.

Thank you for all your support!
Sean Robertson, Fire Chief

2024 Q1 INCIDENT STATISTICS

2024 Q1 (JAN-MAR) INCIDENT STATISTICS



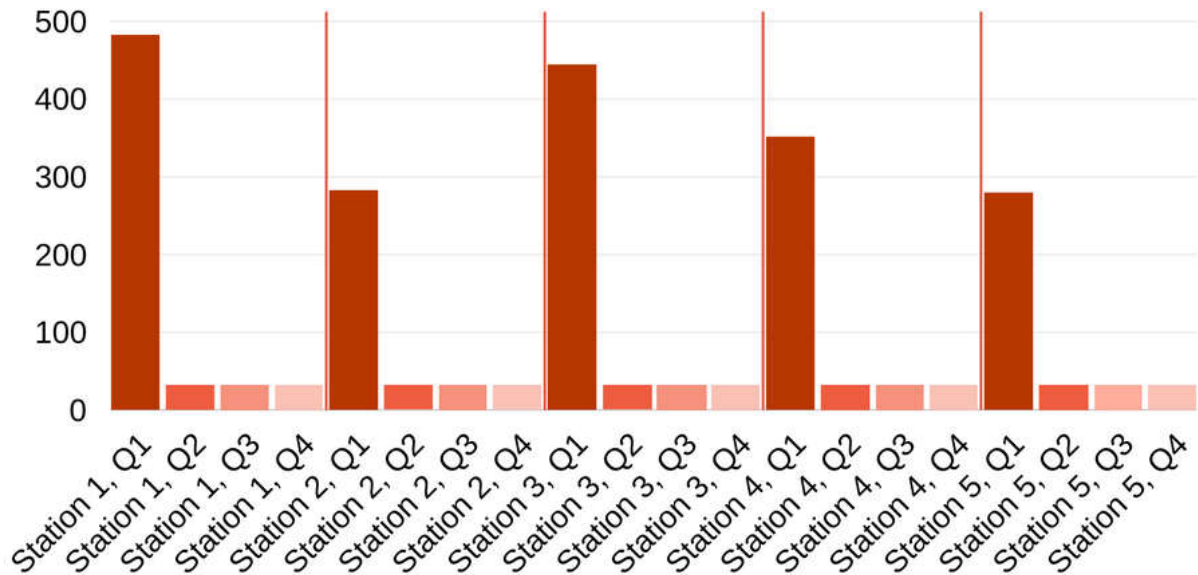
Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fires	60	3.26%
Overpressure, rupture, explosion, overheating	3	0.16%
Rescue / EMS	1167	63.32%
HazMat	59	3.2%
Service Call	223	12.1%
Good Intent Call	212	11.5%
False Alarm	119	6.46%
Total	1843	100%



Humboldt Bay Fire | 707-441-4000 | info@hbfire.org | @HumboldtBayFire



2024 STATION RESPONSE NUMBERS



■ TOTAL CALL VOLUME, Q1: 1843
 ■ TOTAL CALL VOLUME, Q2:
 ■ TOTAL CALL VOLUME, Q3:
 ■ TOTAL CALL VOLUME, Q4:



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STRUCTURE FIRES



On Friday March 22, 2024 at approximately 3:30pm, Humboldt Bay Fire responded to a structure fire at 901 C Street for a report of an apartment on fire. Three engines, one truck, two Chief Officers, and two Fire Support Volunteers responded.

The first unit arrived on scene and initially reported nothing showing in a two story, five-unit apartment complex. Following further investigation, the Captain reported light gray smoke coming from a second-floor apartment and the roof eaves. The Battalion Chief assumed Incident Command and declared a working fire. Additional units arrived on scene and initiated actions to extinguish the fire, search the building, and remove smoke from the apartments. All occupants had exited the building and no injuries were reported. The Incident Commander requested a second alarm for two additional units - one to respond to the incident, and one to provide station coverage. Humboldt Bay Fire experiences multiple calls at the same time – known as stacked calls – almost 60% of the time for our annual average of 8,000 calls for service!



The incident was stabilized after one hour, with crews remaining on scene for an additional three hours for overhaul, investigation and assisting the property owner with securing the building. HBF investigators assessed the cause and origin of the fire and concluded the origin was in the kitchen. The cause of the fire is undetermined at this time. Damage from the fire and smoke was limited to the apartment involved with fire and is estimated at \$25,000 including contents. No civilian or firefighter injuries occurred.

STRUCTURE FIRES

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE NEWS RELEASE

Install.



Inspect.



Protect.



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

03/28/2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: Apartment Building Structure on Fire, 400 Block of L Street, Eureka

**Contact: Battalion Chief Michael Landy/Acting Battalion Chief John Goodman
707-441-4013**

Late in the evening of March 27th at approximately 11:50 pm, Humboldt Bay Fire responded to a structure fire in an apartment building on the 400 block of L St. in Eureka. Three engines, one truck, two Chief Officers, and one Fire Support Volunteer responded.

The Battalion Chief arrived to find heavy fire coming from a window on the second floor of a 3-story apartment with multiple occupants still inside the building. A second alarm and second ambulance were requested, drawing two more engines to the scene and for station coverage. The first-arriving engine immediately located a victim in a 2nd floor window who was trapped in his apartment. The victim was quickly rescued through the window utilizing a ground ladder.

Additional crews knocked down the fire in the fire apartment window from the exterior and made entry, locating three additional victims who were sheltering in place inside their apartments on the second floor. Firefighters assisted the three residents out of the building rescues and cleared the floor of any remaining occupants. The residents did suffer some smoke inhalation but reported no injuries and refused treatment.

The fire was controlled within 20 minutes with crews containing the fire to the original apartment. Quick actions by arriving crews prevented the fire from spreading to additional apartments, rescue the trapped victims, and ensure all occupants were safely out of the building and accounted for. Incident Commanders worked with the property owner and PG&E to isolate and restore utilities back to the building.

There were no firefighter or civilian injuries. Unfortunately, one pet was found deceased inside the fire apartment and another pet is still missing. 12 apartments were deemed uninhabitable due to fire, smoke and water damage, displacing approximately 20 tenants. Red Cross was brought in to provide the tenants with temporary housing and living needs. Damage to the building, valued at \$5 million, is estimated at approximately \$500,000. After investigation, the fire was determined to be caused by improper discarding of burnt aroma materials.

HBF IN THE COMMUNITY

WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH LEADERSHIP, VISION, AND INTEGRITY

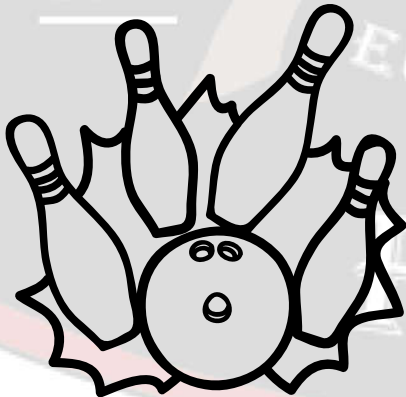


Humboldt Bay Fire always appreciates when we get to teach the younger crowds about fire safety and what it means to be a firefighter. Doing station tours is a great way to get the kids acquainted with the crews and they get to check out our cool ladder truck!

Stop on by anytime or call the office at 707-441-4000 to schedule a station tour



We had a wonderful time at Bowl for Kids Sake. Pictured to the right is Humboldt Bay Fire Captain Dennis, Firefighter Hugh, Firefighter Wilma, and Engineer Powell.

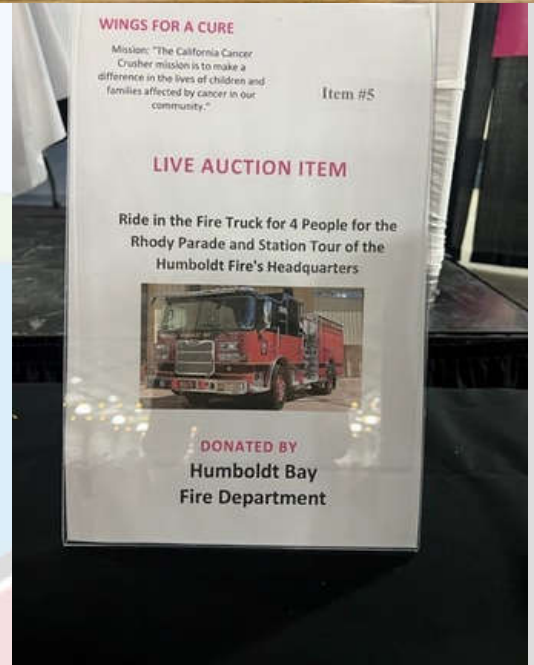


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Humboldt Bay Fire had the honor of partnering with California Cancer Crusher's biggest fundraiser event this year. Wings for a Cure was a great way to be a part of the community outside of emergency responses.



Humboldt Bay Fire was happy to be a part of Cal Poly Humboldt's Career and Volunteer Fair. We were there promoting our Cadet Program as well as offering safety information

HBF IN THE COMMUNITY

WE ARE ALWAYS HAPPY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH LEADERSHIP, VISION, AND INTEGRITY

If you or anyone that you know is interested in learning CPR/First Aid, Humboldt Bay Fire offers hybrid classes. For questions or to sign up, please call Station 1 at 707-441-4000

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE DEPARTMENT

CPR & First Aid

Do you know CPR & First Aid?

**TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
3PM OR 10AM**

We offer a hybrid model where the educational portion is done online, then the students will come in for an in-person skills portion with a certified instructor.

We host 3 to 4 classes a month. Call us at (707)441-400 to check on dates and availabilities



UNION SPOTLIGHT

Our local 652 Professional Fire Fighters Union is affiliated with the International Association of Fire Fighters and is part of Humboldt Del Norte Central Labor Council. Our goal is to work with our administration, parent agencies, and local partners to promote a safe and healthy work environment that will foster and retain quality employees who can best serve our community.

This month we would like to talk about the Humboldt Bay water rescue team and their trainings. Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority (JPA) recently conducted an intensive water rescue training session amidst the challenging terrain of the bay's mud flats. This critical training not only refines the skills of our first responders and allows us to be ready in case a similar emergency arises.

During this training session, held against the backdrop of the bay's expansive mud flats,

Humboldt Bay firefighters engaged in a series of simulated rescue operations designed to mimic real-life emergencies.

Equipped with specialized gear and safety protocols, we navigated through thick, treacherous mud to practice swiftly and safely extricating individuals in distress.



The training regimen included scenarios such as rescuing individuals trapped in sinking mud, simulating responses to distressed swimmers, and practicing techniques for extracting victims from precarious positions.

Under the guidance of experienced instructors, our firefighters honed their abilities to assess situations quickly, make informed decisions, and execute precise rescue maneuvers



UNION SPOTLIGHT



The comprehensive training session also included instruction on utilizing specialized equipment such as ropes, harnesses, and flotation devices, further enhancing the team's capabilities in challenging water rescue scenarios. All our firefighters, not just the water rescue team, is trained in the basics of water rescue so when an incident happens we can help make the rescue teams job a little easier. When working with non-team members an emphasis is placed on teamwork, communication, and maintaining situational awareness in dynamic environments.

The Humboldt Bay water rescue team, comprised of a dedicated team of firefighters and rescue specialists, has long been at the forefront of water emergency response in the region.

Recognizing the unique challenges posed by the bay's dynamic environment, the team regularly engages in specialized training exercises to ensure preparedness for any scenario.

Humboldt Bay Fire implements these trainings so that we are always ready to face any problems that our community faces in a professional and safe manner. Whether navigating treacherous mud flats, braving swift currents or other emergencies our commitment to protecting lives remains steadfast, ensuring that Humboldt Bay remains a safe and thriving community for all.

We want to take the time to thank the JPA Board and Fire Chief Robertson for all of their continued support and efforts in maintaining this program. Cooperating with local 652, they have been able to allocate funding to pay for protective equipment, classes, incentive pay, and ongoing training.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Humboldt Bay Fire is highly dedicated to serving our community with the upmost care. The training is never ending. From water rescue scenarios, structure fires with rescues, to driving the ladder truck and tiller, HBF takes pride in our skills and critical thinking.



Pictured to the left and right are Platoon trainings for shore based rescues. This is critical for our crew members who are not rescue swimmers.

They are able to help from the shore while our rescue swimmers are in the water to meet and assess the patient. They can assist the rescue swimmers with bringing the patient to shore and watching for hazards that might impact the rescue.



Platoon based trainings give each crew an opportunity to run through the drill in a non-emergency situation.



The crews do Ropes Rescue training at Sequoia Park since they are training for high or low angle rescues. The skills from this training can be used for rescues over an embankment, traffic collisions off the highway, and can be beneficial for urban search and rescue.



DEPARTMENT TRAINING

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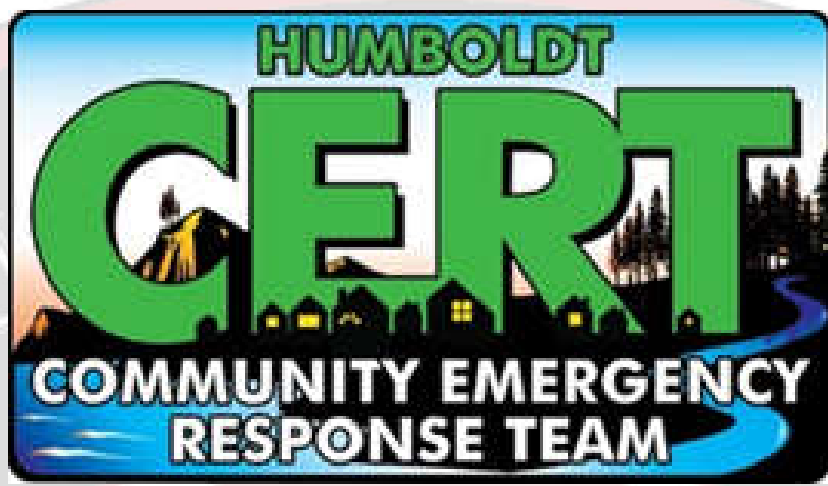
The training never stops 🙌

Our crews are dedicated to perfecting their craft. Firefighters respond to more than just fires; medical emergencies, traffic collisions, hazardous conditions, and public assists, among other calls.

In 2023 HBF responded to 63% medical emergency calls.

We have a breadth of specialty teams including water rescue, urban search and rescue, hazmat, and paramedics.

IRE



Get to Know Your CERT!

Did you know Humboldt Bay Fire has a CERT team?

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) concept started in the Los Angeles Fire Department in 1987 following major earthquake responses that showed how valuable local volunteer responders could be to the relief effort—if they were trained to react appropriately!

We're one of eleven teams in Humboldt County: Arcata, Blue Lake City, Blue Lake Rancheria, Bridgeville, Eureka, Ferndale, Fortuna, McKinleyville, Rio Dell (now forming), Shelter Cove and Trinidad (now forming).

The teams are sponsored by a fire department, law enforcement agency, city, county or tribal government. The HBF Community Risk Reduction Specialist oversees our team.

HBF CERT is a member of the CERT Council so that the team leaders and leadership members can share training ideas, work together for equipment grants, and collaborate with other teams on projects.

The 29 members of HBF CERT team donated 2,053 volunteer hours in 2022 at a value of \$73,022 to Humboldt Bay Fire JPA and that increased in 2023 to 2,195 hours at a value of \$83,971 in-kind volunteer time. We also have been awarded grants over the past four years that increased our supplies cache, obtained four equipment trailers, radios, medical gear and training supplies.





Team activities include educational tables at community events and county fair, promoting Stop the Bleed workshops, participating in Office of Emergency Services advanced training, deliveries for Food for People, assisting with public safety at the Trucker's Parade, teaching modules for the CERT courses in Rio Dell and Trinidad, plus the recent Skills Day Refresher at Blue Lake Rancheria.

Our team instructors are part of the training staff producing the 23-hour CERT basic training which has been offered at no charge to all Humboldt communities, many of which have survived earthquakes, tsunami or storms. Through the generosity of service organizations, individual donations, and grants covering scholarships and training fees, everyone can be trained at no charge to participants.

Training modules cover: Disaster Preparedness, CERT & Incident Command System, Disaster Medical Operations Part 1 & 2, Disaster Psychology, Fire Safety & Utility Control, Light Search & Rescue, Terrorism & CERT, Disaster Simulation & Skills Practice.

Course graduates are eligible to join any team. The nationally recognized training is transferable to other states or communities with a CERT program.

HBF CERT is a member of the Humboldt CERT Coalition 501(c.)3 nonprofit organization, formed in May 2023, to assist with financial needs of these volunteer teams by accepting community donations, in-kind equipment, or funding through grants. The nonprofit status also permits each participating team to offer tax deductible status to donors.



FIREFIGHTER IN FOCUS



Firefighter Bruin Hinton has lived in Humboldt County for most of his life and grew up in Fieldbrook. After graduating high school, Bruin began volunteering with Fieldbrook Fire Department and began attending College of the Redwoods where he took his EMT course. From his time volunteering with Fieldbrook, he took an interest to fire and began taking online courses through Santa Rosa Junior College. After earning his degree in Fire Science, he attended Sierra College Fire Academy where he obtained his FF1. He then moved back home as soon as he had the opportunity to be a part of Humboldt Bay Fire. Bruin enjoys backpacking, playing sports, and spending time with his dogs and family.

DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

Humboldt Bay Fire appreciates all of the hard work and dedication that our crews put in daily. It is always an honor when one of our very own puts in the extra work to level up their skill set. Below is an individual who did just that. Thank you Mike for your undeniable loyalty to not only the department but to the community that you serve.



Captain Mike Tyson. Recently promoted to Captain from Engineer



WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS TIPS

We recognized Wildfire Preparedness Week May 4-11 and would like to share these wildfire prevention and defensible space tips.

Fire season is upon us. Help keep Humboldt safe and out of the headlines. Prepare for a wildfire now by maintaining your lawn and removing combustible debris from around your home. Take care when using lawn mowers that may create sparks, especially as the temperatures increase and grasses begin to dry.

Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it protects your home from catching fire – either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home. Here are tips to create defensible space.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Relocate wood piles at least 30 feet from structures.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.
- Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground. Allow extra vertical space between shrubs and trees. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the brush to the tree tops like a ladder.

Preparation is the best protection!

For more tips on how to be fire safe, visit <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/>





HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE ANNIVERSARIES

Volunteer Fire Support Greg Jernigan, 40 yrs (March)

Battalion Chief Tim Citro, 24 yrs (February)

Captain Colin Beddow, 21 yrs (January)

Firefighter Jason Campillo, 21 yrs (January)

Captain Bret Banducci, 19 yrs (January)

Engineer Ray Marchi, 17 yrs (February)

Captain Brett Christensen, 13 yrs (March)

Captain David Terry, 13 yrs (March)

Executive Secretary Jenna Harris, 10 yrs (February)

Engineer Adam Bumgardner, 8 yrs (February)

Captain Mike Tyson, 8 yrs (February)

Engineer Kameron Waters, 8 yrs (February)

Engineer Logan Bongio, 6 yrs (January)

Engineer Lyndon Powell, 6 yrs (January)

Engineer Scott Gordinier, 3 yrs (February)

Firefighter Becca Ciszewski 4 yrs (January)

Engineer Wyatt Esola 4 yrs (January)

Firefighter Matt Parsons 4 yrs (January)

Firefighter Griffin Barnes, 3 yrs (February)

Engineer Anthony Zamudio 2 yrs (January)

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO FOLLOW HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE

