



HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Fourth Quarter (October– December) 2019

E-Newsletter

We fulfill our mission by living our core values: Professionalism, Respect, Image, Discipline & Efficiency

Fire Chief's Message

Fire Chief Sean Robertson



Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020 from Humboldt Bay Fire!

It has been a several months since the last newsletter with several significant events and happenings at HBF.

In 2019 HBF responded to over 7,000 calls for service. These included several significant structure fires that unfortunately included one fatality.

On October 12th we had a very successful and well-attended Open House events ever with multiple other safety agencies participating and lots of fun activities occurring throughout the day.

We developed long-term capital improvement plans for apparatus and facilities, resulting in the order of two Pierce fire engines. We expect delivery in summer 2020. Our apparatus committee recently returned from a factory visit in Appleton, Wisconsin with City of Eureka Corpyard mechanics, and reported a very successful design start.

As part of very-long deferred station maintenance new carpet was recently installed at Station 1, and interior and exterior improvements were performed at Station 3 and 4. We are planning a complete painting of both stations this spring and will have an Open House to celebrate.

We have had three retirements in the last few months, saying farewell to veteran firefighters Carl Gossien, Kent Hulbert, and Jim Andresen after a collective 75 years of service to the Humboldt community! They leave a giant hole in our agency but enter a very well-deserved retirement.

With these retirements we hired 6 recruit firefighters, who began their 8 week training academy January 6, 2020. The academy will prepare them to start their shift work in March, covering fire suppression, medical treatment, rescue operations, hazardous materials, extrication, water rescue, and multiple other topics. These 6 recruits will help us return to full staffing and address some long-standing staffing and operational issues.

Our Community Risk Reduction (CRR), implemented earlier in the year, has been tremendously successful in increasing our community engagement and revising our inspection, public education, disaster preparedness, and communication. Our CRR Specialist, Amy Conlin, has done tremendous work expanding our program and

Response Statistics

Fires	52
Explosion– No Fire	3
Rescue & EMS Calls	1,188
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	132
Service Call	183
Good Intent Call	385
False Alarm & False Call	121
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	9
Special Incident Type	1
Fourth Quarter Total	2,074
2019 YTD Total	7,528

recently returned from the National Fire Academy, where she learned of the increasingly important role of CRR in communities across the nation.

One of the more significant events last year were the PG&E power shutdowns. While tremendously inconvenient and costly for local residents, businesses, and public agencies, the shutdowns did create an opportunity to test our disaster preparedness capabilities and partnerships. Some gaps were identified and refined so the second PSPS was much less disruptive than the first.

During the wet and cold winter Humboldt Bay Fire sees an increase in calls to homes for fires caused by heating appliances. Whether it be a rug pulled over the top of a floor furnace causing the rug to catch fire, or a chimney fire in a chimney or stovepipe that hasn't been cleaned or inspected in a while, these incidents have the potential for disastrous consequences. Please try to remember that

before firing up that heater, make sure there are adequate clearances from combustibles. Similarly, before building that roaring fire in the woodstove ensure that regular maintenance has been performed and the chimney cleaned if needed.

Also with the cooler temperatures, we begin seeing deep standing water, ice, and snow on the roadways. If you plan to be traveling through areas with such hazards, make sure that you are aware of your speed, allow extra time to reach your destination, and drive defensively!

From our family to yours, we wish you a safe, bountiful, and successful 2020.

Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson

Fire Chief

Stay Connected with Humboldt Bay Fire



www.HBFire.org



www.facebook.com/humboldtбайfire



[#humboldtбайfire](https://www.instagram.com/humboldtбайfire)



[@HumboldtBayFire](https://twitter.com/HumboldtBayFire)

Winter Weather Safety

Battalion Chief Chris Emmons



As we move in to the heart of Winter the single most important item to consider is being prepared. This will help keep you safe, warm, and cozy as it's blowing and raining outside.

With cold winter temperatures there is an increased use of fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, and other alternative heating methods. There are an increased number of fires and other emergencies caused by heating appliances due to more usage. The following tips can help you maintain a safe home this winter. Install a carbon monoxide detector. Malfunctioning or improperly installed heating appliances can leak carbon monoxide gas, as can generators. Outdoor heating appliances should only be used outside. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors. If you have to use a generator for power, only run it outdoors and away from windows and doors. Also, do not refuel generators while they are running.

Early in my career as an officer with Humboldt Bay Fire I had the unfortunate opportunity to respond to a multi-casualty incident at a single family residence involving an entire family who was suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. The call originated as a routine medical call but as the firefighters were treating the patient with the worst signs and symptoms, the firefighters began to develop headaches and dizziness. We removed all people from the residence to fresh air. We then monitored the atmosphere with our monitors and found that the carbon monoxide levels were several times higher than safe limits. Eight people in this family were transported and treated for varying levels of exposure to the gas. Upon further investigation, it was found that a brand new furnace had been installed improperly causing the carbon monoxide levels to elevate. As the temperatures dropped, the furnace was being used more and more until the levels began to affect the health of the occupants. If they had only had a carbon monoxide alarm, they could have avoided a very close call. An alarm would have sounded and

indicated the levels were unsafe, most likely triggering the occupants to contact the fire department or Pacific Gas and Electric. Fortunately for the family, because they called for the medical aid, we were able to identify and eliminate this silent killer from their home.

To help avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and to aid in lowering heating bills, have your furnace inspected annually to ensure that it is in good working condition. Maintain a 3 foot separation between things that can burn and heating equipment, including checking floor heaters to make sure they are not covered by floor coverings or other combustibles. If you are using portable space heaters as a source of heat, install and use them according to the manufacturer's instructions. Extension cords shouldn't be used for an electric-powered space heater. Remember to keep young children away from heaters and stoves— especially when they are wearing pajamas or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

The Greater Eureka area has a higher rate of floor furnace fires than other areas of California as these types of heating appliances are more common here. The causes of floor furnace fires that we at Humboldt Bay Fire have responded to are due to combustibles being placed on or too close to the floor furnace. Many people believe that when the thermostat to the appliance is turned all the way down the appliance is off. This is incorrect. When the thermostat is all the way down, it is simply in the lowest temperature setting. Even if it's set low, colder temperatures at night can cause the furnace to come on. If there are area rugs or other materials over it or nearby, this can lead to a fire. Always keep combustibles at least three feet from the grate of the furnace.

If you have a fuel burning appliance, such as Kerosene, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide, and only use the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. Refueling should be done outside of the home. Kerosene heaters

should never be filled while the heater while is operating or hot. Follow manufacturer's instructions.

In this area many people still utilize wood to heat their homes. If you have a wood stove, have the stove and flue inspected and cleaned annually. Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly with proper clearances. Always keep a screen in front of the fireplace opening and keep combustible materials away from the fireplace or stove. When starting a fire only use paper or kindling to start the fire and never use flammable liquids in the fireplace or stove. To avoid a buildup of creosote, use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove. Artificial logs should not be used in wood stoves. When you clean your fireplace or woodstove, allow the ashes to cool before disposing of them in a metal container. Every year we encounter fires caused by ashes being disposed of in paper bags or plastic containers which will melt.

Additionally, here are a few more general safety tips. First, if you can avoid going out in inclement weather do so. However, if you must go out, plan for additional time to get there as the roads may be slick. If you encounter flooded roads, don't try to drive through the water. Vehicles can be swept away with just a few inches of flowing water. Higher water can also cause a vehicle to stall. Always remember to drive with your headlights on in poor weather to make your vehicle more visible.

On those windy days, limbs and debris may blow and can also make high profile vehicles more unstable or difficult to drive. Power lines, cable and phone lines may also come down in higher winds. Never approach a down line as it may be energized. Energized lines can look the same as de-energized lines.

If you have any questions about these safety tips, please give us a call at Humboldt Bay Fire at 441-4000

Firefighter in Focus

Community Risk Reduction Specialist

Amy Conlin



Hello everyone!

I'm Amy. I was born in Santa Rosa, CA and lived there with my older brother and parents for the first 17 years of my life. I was always an excellent student, but never thought I would have the opportunity to attend college. In fact, it was my hope and plan to join the military upon graduation. However, life had different plans for me and I ended up moving to Ashland, Oregon where I attended Southern Oregon University and received my Bachelor of Arts in English & Writing and minor in Psychology.

After graduating college, I moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida where I worked, lived, and earned my Masters of Science Degree in Conflict Analysis & Resolution. I worked at a series of universities in the Miami area providing emergency on-call response to crises within campus

populations. However, I always wanted to get back to California and closer to my family.

In December of 2015 I accepted a job at Humboldt State University and packed up my life for the cross-country move to Arcata. I thought that Humboldt would be a stepping stone in my effort to get back to the bay area, but I fell in love with the place and decided to make it my home. My work at the University was fulfilling and I learned a lot about myself during the first few years in my role, but a part of me had yet to awaken.

In October of 2017, the Tubbs fire hit my hometown and my life changed overnight. I woke up to a phone call from my dad at 6 A.M; I could hear him calling my name on the other end but he couldn't hear me and the call shortly dropped. I finally got through to my mom and asked her what was going on: "Amy, all I see is red." The Tubbs Fire was the most destructive wildland fire in California history, and it was burning my home. My community lost lives, homes, businesses, and almost 40,000 acres burned before containment.

That day ignited a buried passion in me to begin volunteering as a firefighter, and becoming part of the solution to help the people hurting around me. I joined a local department and began training. Pretty soon, I was getting through my workdays so that I could head to the station for duty. I was hooked, even taking some time off in the summers to staff Cal Fire stations whose crews had bumped down to fight larger fires down south.

It was then that I became aware of the Community Risk Reduction position at Humboldt Bay Fire. It was the perfect marriage for my administrative background and my newfound love of fire, and I was lucky enough to be hired for the role just over a year ago.

I'm honored to now work in a field where I get to help take power back from something that's scary, that destroys, and kills. I love how no two days are ever the same, and the ways in which I can serve our community are endless.

Outside of work you might see me exploring all our area has to offer with friends and loved ones or going on hikes with my dogs. If you do, come on up and say hello!

Power Outage Preparedness

CRRS Amy Conlin

Get prepared for power outages and emergencies!

1. Have food for 2-3 days on hand that doesn't require refrigeration and can be cooked on a camp stove or outdoor grill. Remember though, never use a camp stove indoors.
2. Have 1 gallon of water, per day, per person for drinking and cleaning.
3. Have flashlights, battery operated lanterns or candles in a convenient location. Remember, if you are using candles, never leave them unattended, within reach of children, and keep them away from flammable items.
4. Keep your refrigerated items cold by freezing water bottles. When the power goes out, transfer the frozen bottles around items in your fridge to help keep them cold. You can also transfer items to the freezer once the power is out to keep them cold. Remember to only open your fridge when absolutely necessary and make it quick. Don't open your fridge to check to see if it's cold.
5. If you are getting close to needing a refill on prescriptions, do it soon.
6. Fuel up your vehicle.
7. Have cash on hand. When we lose power retailers may lose the ability to run debit and credit cards.
8. Know your generator! Never use generators or outdoor/camp stoves indoors
9. Carbon Monoxide is a silent killer. Make sure your CO detectors are present and working.
10. Check out our list for ideas on getting an Emergency/Disaster kit together.
11. Remember to check on your neighbors. We are all in this together and we strengthen our community by pulling together.
12. Sign up for Humboldt Alert, Humboldt county's emergency notification system. It will send out notification alerting you to any emergency that may affect you, not just a PSPS event.

Visit Humboldt.gov/alerts to sign up today. Be Informed, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, Get Involved.

For more information on preparedness, visit Ready.gov.

Local 652 Union Spotlight

Humboldt Bay Firefighters Local 652



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 wanted to talk about the Humboldt Bay Fire Depart Urban Search and Rescue Team. This team is comprised of 12 members with specialized training and tools. All line staff members of Humboldt Bay Fire are trained in Rescue Systems 1 and Confined Space Rescue. These are each 40 hour intensive courses that teach rescue and scene stabilization skills after natural disasters like earthquakes and tsunamis or industrial accidents. The USAR team has an additional training requirement of Rescue Systems 2 and Trench Rescue (an additional 56 hrs. of training) along with ongoing continuing education mandates.

The Urban Search and Rescue team or USAR is one of the many ways we are living our mission statement. We are committed to providing the highest level of community service including this very technical and specialized type of rescue. These programs, similar to the Paramedic, Water Rescue, and Hazardous Materials Response, are specialties that meet the unique needs and hazards of the greater Eureka area and the Humboldt and Del Norte counties. The USAR team is working with the California Office of Emergency Services to be a regional team with the possibility of being called upon to respond to larger emergencies in other parts of the state. A few years ago a USAR team based out of the Novato area came up to Eureka for a large scale drill at one of the local industrial sites.

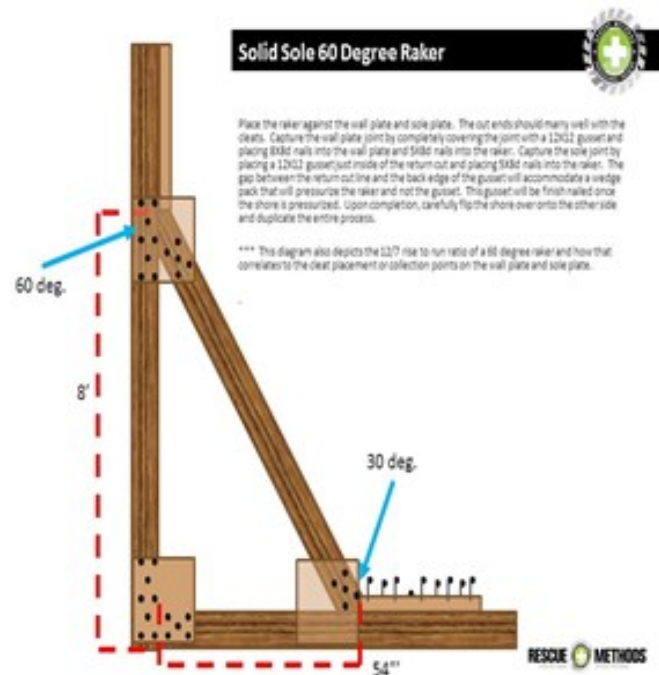


Local 652 Union Spotlight

Humboldt Bay Firefighters Local 652



(LEFT) Team members practice building a raker shore at a quarterly drill. This is a large brace that would help support a structurally compromised wall so that a building can be safely searched for trapped occupants. This type of shore is most often used after large earthquakes.



On the next page you will see a picture from an actual incident here in Eureka. A roofing company was performing a re-roof of an older building and in the course of removing the old roof piled too much weight in one spot causing a structural failure of some of the beams and columns holding up the building. Humboldt Bay Fire department, led by USAR trained members reinforced the building using shoring. This helped prevent any further collapse and damage and allowed the contractor to complete the work.

Local 652 Union Spotlight

Humboldt Bay Firefighters Local 652



We are grateful to our community and administration for supporting this specialized training and skill set so that we can provide the best possible customer service in the event of a major earthquake, tsunami, or other similar emergencies.

We want to thank all of our families, our Board members, parent agencies, the Fire Chief and administration, our local sponsors, business partners, local unions, and community members. Thank you to all those who continue to support Local 652 Humboldt Bay Professional Firefighters!

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HumboldtBayFirefightersUnionLocal652

Check out our new website: <https://humboldtbayfirefighters.org/>

Super Bowl Safety

Battalion Chief Chris Emmons

While you are cheering for your favorite team or just enjoying good times with family and friends, follow these tips from Humboldt Bay Fire and the National Fire Protection Association to ensure you have a fun filled and safe day.

BBQ Safety Tips:

- Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.
- The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.
- When using a barbecue grill, be sure that all parts of the unit are firmly in place and that the grill is stable (can't be tipped over).
- Wear clothing that does not have hanging shirt tails, frills, or apron strings that can catch fire, and use flame-retardant mitts when adjusting hot vents.
- Never attempt to move a hot grill. It's easy to stumble or drop it and serious burns could result.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill.
- Have a fire extinguisher or garden hose available nearby.

Never leave your grill unattended.

Charcoal Grills:

- There are several ways to get the charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.
- If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.

When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Propane grills:

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using it. If your grill has a gas leak, off the gas tank and grill. If the leak stops, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak does not stop, call the fire department. If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.

General Safety:

Plan ahead. If you are partaking in adult beverages. Do not over-indulge. Do it responsibly. Have a designated driver or a safe ride home.



Dispatcher in Focus

Meet Catherine



Catharine moved to Humboldt County from Paradise in 2016 to attend Humboldt State University where she majored in Environmental Studies. Prior to dispatching, Catharine worked at Eureka City Schools and coached basketball for Arcata High school.

Catharine began her career with Eureka Police and Humboldt Bay fire Communications Center in 2019 and just recently attended an Emergency Medical Dispatch course which certifies her to give life-saving medical instructions to callers in need.

Catharine enjoys the challenge of being a dispatcher and that every day is different and a new learning experience. Catharine's favorite part of dispatching is being able to help people in their time of need and make a difference in the community. Working for Eureka Police and Humboldt Bay Fire, Catharine handles police, fire and medical calls and enjoys the diversity and the challenge that comes with dispatching for all types of calls for service. In Catharine's free time, Catharine enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her dog. She has a passion for sports and is the Assistant Varsity Coach at Arcata High School.

Catharine is a great addition to the Communications Center and we look forward to watching her career grow!

Thank you Catherine!

Life Saving Award

Back in November, Humboldt Bay Fire recognized Holly and Alex Bateman who were driving home from dinner on an April night when they saw smoke and flames coming from the roof of a home.

Noticing there were no emergency responders on scene and that lights were on inside, they pulled over and called 911 before running to the door to help.

Holly and Alex not only alerted the occupants of the fire that they had no idea was burning above them, but helped them get out safely and ensured an early notification for HBF crews.

For these heroic actions, Humboldt Bay Fire submitted Holly and Alex for the American Red Cross Lifesaving Award Program.

Finally, just two weeks ago, Holly and Alex received their award and came face to face with the occupants they helped to save for the first time since the fire.

In an emotional scene, the occupants described how they have often thought about Holly and Alex, only remembering their voices in the midst of the tragedy that night.

We are so proud of these community members and are thankful to have the opportunity to recognize their efforts to keep our community safe.

Thank you, Holly and Alex!



Left: Alex & Holly Bateman and residents of home.

Below: Battalion Chief/ Paramedic Tim Citro, Alex Bateman, Holly Bateman, residents of the home, Fire Chief Sean Robertson and CRRS Amy Conlin



Fallen Firefighter Memorial



In the 155 years that the City of Eureka has had an organized fire department, 6 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty. All 6 of these names have been enshrined on the CA Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento. Unfortunately, we do not have anything honoring the ultimate sacrifice our brothers made within our own community. We are a group of Humboldt Bay Firefighters that are teaming up with the City of Eureka's Open Space, Parks & Recreation Commission to change that.

We've chosen Clarke Plaza to house the new memorial. This site has a distinct historical connection to the Fire Department due to the large fire that occurred here in 1959 that resulted in 7 firefighters being injured. We are currently working with local artists to create a bronze memorial that will sit atop a stone pedestal to honor our 6 fallen brothers. The site will also include a flag pole, 24 hour lighting, improved landscaping and reflecting benches. The memorial will allow for the addition of future names should the need ever arise. Our vision is to create a space that will also help to beautify our Old Town area. We plan to take ownership of this space and perform routine upkeep and maintenance on the site. Our hope is to create a space that will allow other events to simultaneously make use of the space, such as Friday Night Markets and Arts Alive.

We are reaching out to our community to help us honor the sacrifice that our brothers made to help keep you and your loved ones safe. All money donated will go towards the design, creation, installation and upkeep of the memorial space. This memorial will be 100% funded through donations and no money will be diverted from Humboldt Bay Fire's budget. Humboldt Bay Professional Firefighters Local 652 IAFF is managing all funds for this project. To date we have raised 25% of our \$40,000 goal. Please help us give our fallen brothers the lasting honor and recognition that they deserve. Donations can be made online at our GoFundMe site or in person at Station 1 located at 533 C St.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fallen-firefighters-memorial-eureka-ca>

FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL SPAGHETTI DINNER , AUCTION & RAFFLE

FRIDAY MARCH 6TH
4PM-8PM
WHARFINGER BUILDING, EUREKA

FOR INFORMATION ON THE EVENT PLEASE VISIT OUR
FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE!

Anniversaries & Retirements

Anniversaries

Captain Michael Landry, 16 yrs (October)

Firefighter/ Paramedic Traci Kroll 1 Yr (October)

Firefighter Jorge Herrera , 1 yr (October)

Firefighter, Michael Porter, 1 Yr (October)

Engineer/Paramedic Don Penn, 11 yrs (November)

Firefighter Kyle Brown, 6 yrs (October)

Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon Harlander, 3 yrs (December)

Firefighter/Paramedic Sean Hicks, 3 yrs (December)



Humboldt Bay Fire has partnered with the American Red Cross to bring the “Sound the Alarm” program to our community.

Through this program, we are offering free smoke detectors and free installation to those in need. If you are a homeowner in need of smoke detectors to protect yourself and your family, or if you need help assessing the reliability of current smoke detectors, feel free to give us a call.

We offer installations every second Wednesday of the month between 1pm and 5pm.

Smoke alarms save lives!



Upcoming CPR/ CPR & 1st Aid Classes

CPR and AED for Adults, Children, and Infants \$30

February 11, 2020 6:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.

March 10, 2020 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

April 07, 2020 6:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.

May 12, 2020 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

June 09, 2020 6:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.

August 11, 2020 6:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.

September 08, 2020 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

October 13, 2020 6:00 p.m.- 10:00 p.m.

November 10, 2020 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.



CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults, Children and Infants \$60

February 08, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

March 14, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

April 11, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

May 09, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

June 13, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

August 08, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

September 12, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

October 17, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

November 14, 2020 8:00 a.m.– 5:00 p.m.

MEDIC 
 **First Aid**

Pre-registration with pre-payment are REQUIRED

Register by calling (707) 441-4000

Or stopping by 533 C Street in Eureka

HBF office hours are Monday- Friday

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. Closed 12:00-1:00 for lunch