



HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Second Quarter 2020 (April– June)

E-Newsletter

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

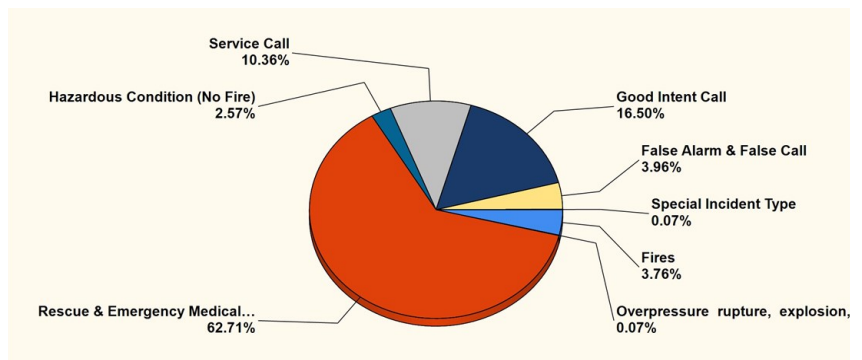
Fire Chief's Message Fire Chief Sean Robertson



Welcome to the second quarter newsletter of 2020 from Humboldt Bay Fire.

It has been a very challenging second quarter, dominated by the Covid-19 pandemic and the safety measures established that I discussed in the last newsletter. Our main Fire Station 1 is open again to normal business, and we plan to open our classrooms back up to the public on July 1st. Our outside stations are still closed to the general public, and we are still holding off on doing routine in-person business and apartment building inspections. Our call volume went through some interesting cycles with a general 20% reduction in medical calls over the last 3 months, and have recently returned to pre-Covid levels. Through this time we also experienced several large structural fires in residences and commercial occupancies.

Our firefighters continue to respond to all calls, especially medical in nature, with a heightened sense of protection – wearing N-95 masks, eye protection, and surgical gowns or Tyvek suits. These measures will be in place for the foreseeable future to ensure the highest level of protection and safety for our firefighters and our customers. We did have seven firefighters exposed to a positive Covid patient resulting in three being quarantined for two weeks. Fortunately none developed any symptoms and none of our members or their families have tested positive or become sick through this ordeal.



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	57	3.76%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overhear - no fire	1	0.07%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	950	62.71%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	39	2.57%
Service Call	157	10.36%
Good Intent Call	250	16.50%
False Alarm & False Call	60	3.96%
Special Incident Type	1	0.07%
TOTAL	1515	100.00%

Fire Chief's Message Continued

Due to safety requirements of our certifying bodies we will not be able to offer in-person CPR classes for a few more weeks. Please call to discuss virtual options with our Community Risk Reduction Specialist Amy Conlin.

The pandemic had another dramatic effect that is being felt worldwide – a significant loss of income and revenue. This has affected the City of Eureka through a multi-million dollar loss of sales tax revenue, which resulted in a \$749,000 reduction in the HBF budget. This loss will be taken from our operating reserve fund but makes for a very uncertain and threatening future.

Our new Pierce Arrow fire engines are approaching the final stages of production, and should be ready for final inspection in a few weeks! Both engines were paid for last year by our parent agencies utilizing capital improvement fund reserves. This is a very exciting outcome that comes after a lengthy planning process begun last winter through our Apparatus Committee, the City Finance and Public Works Directors, and the Humboldt No. 1 Fire Protection and HBF JPA Boards.

We are prepared for the upcoming wildland fire season and ready to respond to local incidents, provide local Cal Fire station coverage, or respond out of County to assist our state mutual aid partners.

Lastly, I would like to reinforce that Humboldt Bay Fire stands against racism and discrimination in our community. Every day we are ready to take the greatest care of those who call for our help, but we know that members within our ranks and those we serve have directly faced racism in the workplace and in our community. Understanding that people of color are treated differently every day and that we can do more to support them and change that is our commitment to community service. We are working with Stepping Stones Diversity Consulting and the Firefighter Diversity Recruitment Council to learn more and develop greater understanding towards accomplishing that.

Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson

Fire Chief



Fireworks Safety

Due to COVID-19 the 2020 4th of July Festival and Fireworks Show in Eureka has been cancelled. Fireworks can be a fun way to enjoy Independence Day when used correctly and safely.

But fireworks handled improperly can turn your holiday memorable for all the wrong reasons. To keep you and your family safe while celebrating, follow these general guidelines:

Celebrate the 4th Without Fireworks:

- Light up the night with glow sticks
- Have an outdoor movie night
- Bake a cake for America's birthday
- Make a statement with noise makers
- Have fun with red, white, and blue silly string



“While fireworks are an emblem of July 4 celebrations, in the absence of public displays this year, we strongly encourage people to find safe and creative alternatives for celebrating the holiday. Fireworks are simply too dangerous and unpredictable to be used safely by consumers. Even sparklers, which are often considered harmless enough for children, burn as hot as 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit and can cause third-degree burns.

First responders and our health care services have been working tirelessly to protect the public throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. A great way for people to show their support is to avoid consumer use of fireworks and help minimize the number of avoidable incidents that require response and care.”

Fireworks started an estimated 19,500 fires in 2018, including 1,900 structure fires, 500 vehicle fires, and 17,100 outside and other fires. These fires caused five deaths, 46 civilian injuries, and \$105 million in direct property damage.

-Lorraine Carli, Vice President of Outreach and Advocacy, NFPA, June 10 2020

General fireworks tips:

Be sure fireworks are legal in your area before using or buying them.

Only “Safe & Sane” fireworks are allowed for purchase and use in Eureka & Humboldt County. NO fireworks are allowed in Old Town, Eureka.

Always have an adult present when using fireworks. Never leave children unattended with fireworks or allow them to ignite fireworks. (*Did you know sparklers alone account for 25% of ER visits for fireworks injuries?*)

When setting off fireworks, have a hose, bucket of water, or fire extinguisher nearby, just in case. Pick a location that is dry and fire-resistant, such as cement.

If a firework malfunctions, do not re-light it. Soak it in water and throw it away.

- Never ignite fireworks inside of a container.
- Never disassemble or try to make your own fireworks.
- Don't point fireworks at yourself or others, especially while they are being lit.
- Be sensitive of populations who may be triggered by fireworks such as Veterans, Dogs, and others who may be sensitive to the sights and sounds. Pick a spot that won't disturb your neighbors and the community around you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Humboldt Bay Fire at (707) 441-4000.

(Source FEMA 2016)

Firefighter in Focus

HBF CERT Dale Bridges

In April, our Fire family lost HBF CERT team member and instructor, Dale Bridges.

Dale spent 40+ years in local fire service organizations. Through out his career in the fire service he filled the roles of Volunteer Firefighter, Firefighter/Engineer, Fire Lieutenant, Assistant Chief and completed his career in fire service as the Fairhaven Fire Chief. Dale was a training officer, he taught fire service classes, industrial and industrial safety classes and was involved in many training controlled burns. He served on the State Fire Marshal's Advisory Board .

Dale also volunteered with the American Red Cross with 24 years in health and safety and 19 years in local and national disaster response sometimes serving with FEMA. Many times, he was the officer in charge of organizing several local disaster shelters for families and their animals displaced by fires, floods and earthquakes.

Dale was an Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Instructor for Humboldt County, 2004-2019, he taught fire safety and light search and rescue modules during the 23-hour CERT Basic course. He was a current and active member of Humboldt Bay Fire CERT Team 2014-2020. He taught disaster preparedness classes for Humboldt County chapter volunteers and the public, he also taught first aid and CPR courses. Dale was also a member of the national Red Cross Disaster Services Human Resources Team (DSHR) and Disaster Action Team (DAT) responding to people in need after house fires

Dale leaves behind a tremendous legacy of volunteering in our county and will be well remembered and greatly missed!



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 ongoing commitment 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.

We wanted to talk about the COVID 19 pandemic through the lens of the Humboldt Bay Firefighter. I think we all agree that we want to put this pandemic behind us and try to return to a new normal as soon as possible. While this pandemic has been horrific and caused much suffering and death in the world and our nation there were some silver linings.

From the onset of this pandemic event Humboldt Bay Fire was proactive and prepared. Steps were taken to change our daily operational procedures, especially for medical calls. This included wearing mask and safety glasses to every call and extra personnel protective equipment like Tyvek suits or gowns and face shields. This served to protect the firefighter but also greatly protected the community. Firefighters took care with the use of this equipment not to spread contamination to other patients, the fire engines, or fire station. Additionally firefighters would wear their boots when outside working and running calls for service, however they would wear a different pair of shoes when in the stations. This again helped to keep clean areas free of potential C19 virus.



One challenge we faced was in the form of our protective medical coats we wear for medical response. These very specialized coats have an exterior barrier and interior vapor barrier that reduce transmission of communicable disease. The problem we encountered was that Tyvek suits were in short supply and with an unknown duration we needed these medical response coats. However if the coat is contaminated it takes time to properly clean and disinfect before it can be worn again, leaving the firefighter exposed.

The Humboldt Area Foundation stepped in to help. If you are not familiar with this great organization here is an idea of what they do. "Humboldt Area Foundation serves the residents of Humboldt, Trinity, Del Norte, and Curry counties by promoting and encouraging generosity, leadership and inclusion to strengthen our communities. Through the generosity of local donors, HAF has awarded more than \$80 million in grants and scholarships since 1972. HAF, along with our affiliate Wild Rivers Community Foundation, focuses its grantmaking and program efforts on strengthening community capacity and transforming our communities' ability to solve problems and address the root causes of those problems."

Humboldt Bay Fire Department applied for and received approximately 15k in grant funding to purchase each department member a second medical coat. These coats not only protect us from Covid -19

Local 652 Union Spotlight.. Continued

Humboldt Bay Firefighters Local 652

but we be used for many years to come on our medical responses. These coats went in to service within a week of receiving the grant!

Firefighters followed the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines and shelter in place order. Several firefighters were inadvertently exposed while providing care to our community early on in the event. They were quarantined and tested and fortunately all tested negative for the active virus. They were able to return to work.

Additionally Humboldt Bay Fire temporarily suspended Fire Safety inspections in business, hotels, and multi-unit apartments. This allowed us to do our part to comply with the shelter in place order.

Each month firefighters received an update from our department medical director who advised us of updated research, testing, and techniques for reducing transmission and providing better patient care.

Another element of this pandemic was a firefighter's home life. Especially early on when little was known about transmission of the virus or what populations were most vulnerable many had deep concern about possibly contracting the virus at work and then bringing it home to loved ones. On top of this many of Local 652 have spouses and partners who are nurses and teachers adding extra stress to an already difficult situation.

Silver linings were found in difficult times. There was an out pouring of support from the community. Many kind gestures were extended including food and desert deliveries. Humboldt Bay Fire did a "lights and sirens" drive by parade for birthday parties and with EPD at the hospital to show support to our local medical staff. Many families were able to spend more time together as schools and businesses were closed and everyone stayed home to help save lives.

While this pandemic is far from over, and we live in ever increasingly tumultuous times, Humboldt Bay Fire Professional Firefighter's Local 652 is here to serve our community and adapt to changing needs. As always we want to genuinely 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!



CPR/ CPR & 1st Aid Classes

Humboldt Bay Fire is currently putting a pause on CPR and First Aid classes due to Covid-19 and the current shelter in place order. Please follow us on social media for updates on when we will return to scheduling these monthly classes.

We apologize for any inconvenience and we appreciate your understanding. If you are needing a CPR / CPR & First Aid Certification, we encourage you to look online! Here are a few courses you can take in the comfort and safety of your own home:

- American Safety Training Institute : <https://www.americansti.org/>
- American Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/online-safety-classes>



MEDIC 
 **First Aid**

Grilling Safety

Fire in the grill under hot dogs and burgers is a welcome sight at the family cookout. But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons. To keep you and your family safe while grilling, follow these general guidelines:



General grilling 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 (at least 10 feet).

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.

Never leave your grill unattended.

Before you use your propane grill:

Check the major connection points between the gas (propane) tank hose and the regulator and cylinder, and where the hose connects to the burners. Tighten if loose.

Check the gas (propane) tank hose for the potential (gas) leaks. To do that, apply a light soap and water solution to the hose using a brush or spray bottle. Turn the propane tank on. If there is a gas leak, the propane will release bubbles around the hose (big enough to see). If there are no bubbles, your grill is safe to use. If there are bubbles, turn off the tank and check connections, then have your grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak doesn't stop, call the fire department immediately.

When the grill is on:

If you smell gas while cooking, turn off the gas tank and burners.

If the leak stops immediately, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again.

If the smell continues, move away from the grill and call the fire department immediately. Do not move the grill.



Charcoal grills:

There are several ways to get 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 rated for outdoor use. When you are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Humboldt Bay Fire at (707) 441-4000.

(Source NFPA 2016)

Thank you!

For the Donations & Treats

Mountain Mikes Pizza

Dominos Pizza

Happy Donuts

St. Joes ED Staff

Cupcakes from Nancy

Mia Bella Cupcakes donated by Anna Osorio



Anniversaries

Deputy Chief Bill Reynolds, 23 yrs (June)

Captain Nathan Baxley, 15 yrs (June)

Engineer Mitchell Mills, 15 yrs (June)

Captain Ben Miller, 15 yrs (June)

Battalion Chief Nick Launius, 14 yrs (May)

Captain Trevor Morris, 14 yrs (May)

Engineer Neil Butler, 14 yrs (May)

Captain Russell Boham, 13 yrs (April)

Captain Tony Freeman, 13 yrs (April)

Engineer Kevin Stokes, 13 yrs (April)

Firefighter Yolla Montalbin, 13 yrs (April)

Captain Jon Chambers, 12 yrs (June)

Captain John Goodman, 12 yrs (June)

Battalion Chief Chris Emmons, 12 yrs (June)

Captain Stefan Rheinschmidt, 11 yrs (April)

Engineer Brett Egbert, 8 yrs (April)

Engineer Matthew Dennis, 8 yrs (May)

Firefighter Kingston Blevins, 7yrs (May)



Stay Connected with Humboldt Bay Fire.

Follow us on social media for daily updates on trainings, safety tips and more!



www.HBFire.org



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