



# HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





# WE'RE AT YOUR SERVICE

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## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE CHIEF

Like most departments across the country, Humboldt Bay Fire faced many new challenges in 2023. However, we remain focused on our mission of dedicated service through leadership, vision, and integrity. Our personnel are highly trained, caring, and compassionate professionals who place the interests of our community before their own. Our commitment is exhibited through our response to emergency incidents and our extensive community engagement, emergency management, and community risk reduction efforts. We demonstrate our commitment to community service by exploring new ways of providing the most efficient and professional services possible to those who reside in, work in, or visit our community. It is said that the quality of an individual and organization is often shown during times of challenge, and that has certainly been true at HBF as we have come through the last tumultuous year. Our people have shown their great quality by meeting the imminent needs of our organization in this time and working not only to step up, but also to support those doing so through encouragement, training, and mentorship. This includes all our firefighters' families, who are so invaluable to their work. We thank them and our community for all the support in making the Greater Eureka area a better place for all.

*Sean Robertson*



# WE PUT SERVICE OVER SELF

Each member of our team has a heart for serving Humboldt. From our firefighters to our volunteers, know that Humboldt Bay is in great hands.

**49**   
**FIREFIGHTERS**  
INCLUDING BATTALION CHIEFS

**3**   
**COMMUNITY RISK  
REDUCTION STAFF**  
INCLUDING FIRE MARSHAL

**27**   
**VOLUNTEERS**

**4**   
**ADMIN STAFF**  
INCLUDING CHIEF AND  
DEPUTY CHIEF



WE PROVIDE AROUND-THE-CLOCK COVERAGE  
FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY.



# WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU NEED US



**4,636**

Rescue & Emergency Medical Services



**909**

Good Intent Calls



**905**

Service Calls



**447**

False Alarms



**247**

Fires



**259**

Other Calls\*

Total Incidents >> **7,403**

\*Other Calls include Hazardous Condition, Overpressure Rupture or Explosion, Severe Weather, and Special Incident Types.







**EVERY SECOND COUNTS**

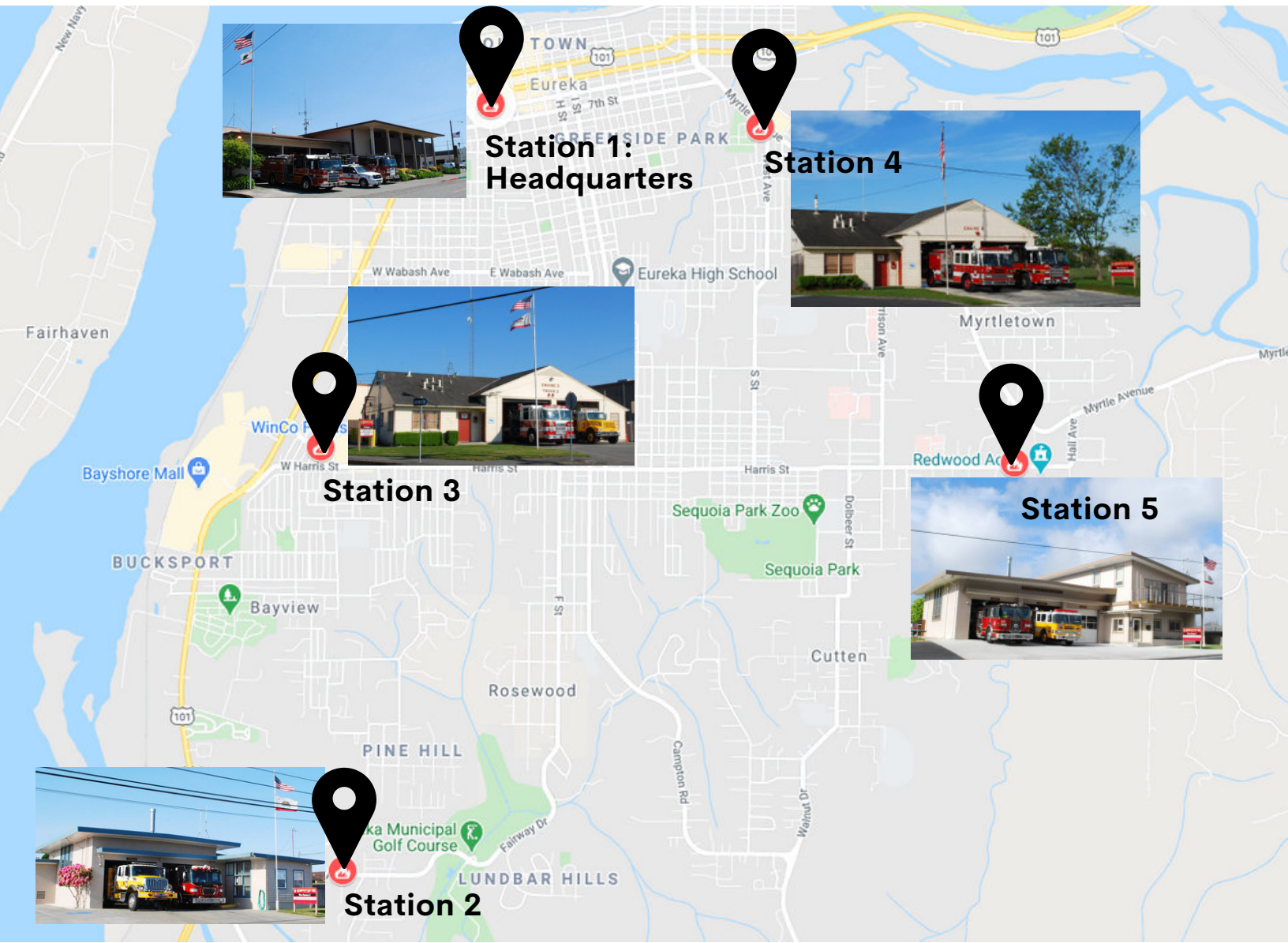
**05:57**

Average Response Time  
(Dispatch to Unit Arrival)

ON AVERAGE, WE GET TO  
YOU WITHIN **SIX**  
MINUTES OF YOUR CALL



# WE HAVE 5 STATIONS THAT SERVE YOU



**1**

1,867 CALLS



**4**

1,566 CALLS



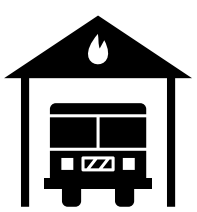
**2**

1,067 CALLS



**5**

1,256 CALLS



**3**

1,649 CALLS



# WE TAKE TRAINING TO THE NEXT LEVEL

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**10,509**

**TOTAL LOGGED  
TRAINING HOURS  
(That's over 9.5  
hours per shift for  
each crew for 365  
days a year)**



# WE ARE GROWING



**In 2023 five new Firefighter recruits joined our ranks, completed their academy, and are working on skills to complete their probationary year**

**This year, we additionally welcomed new Administrative Assistant Stephanie Vonglakhone and Battalion Chief Jon Chambers**



# ... AND GROWING

In 2022, Humboldt Bay Fire (HBF) applied for and received a grant through California Department of Parks and Recreation, Division of Boating and Waterway for the purchase of an Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB). The goal for this boat is to provide access and rescue capabilities to the Humboldt Bay area within the jurisdiction of HBF as well as providing aid to partnering agencies (i.e State Parks, Coast Guard, HCSO). The grant provided funding sufficient for the purchase of an IRB from Wing Inflatables, based in Arcata, as well as a trailer and motor, which were sourced locally through RMI in Eureka.

Our personnel have worked hard on training to become certified boat operators. We are proud to announce that six of our crew are now fully trained on boating operations and can now better assist with water rescues in the Humboldt Bay.



Congratulations to Captain Brett Christensen, Engineers Tyler Gillespie, Scott Gordinier, Ray Marchi, Mike Tyson, and Kameron Waters for completing the boat operator program.



# RECOGNIZING OUR HARDWORKING STAFF

In June, we held our annual awards dinner where we recognized our hard working firefighters and staff. Awards were presented in the following categories; Firefighter of the Year, Service Award, Medal of Honor and Citizen Award. We appreciate all the hard work and dedication that our employees continuously give to our organization.

The recipients of these awards are voted on by fellow personnel with HBF and are well deserved. Congratulations to all the winners!



Natalie Dy  
Citizen Award



Firefighter Yolla Montalbin  
Firefighter of the Year



Engineer Tyler Gillespie  
Medal of Honor



Executive Assistant Jenna Harris  
Service Award





# 2023 OPEN HOUSE

Our annual open house during Fire Prevention Week went off without a hiccup this year. We had a great turn out from the local community as well as other agencies who serve the public. City Ambulance, EPD, CHP, California Cancer Crushers, local State Farm Agents, just to name a few! We appreciate their participation and willingness to support Humboldt Bay Fire during Fire Prevention week.



We even had a special appearance from Sparky the Fire Dog! Sparky reminds kids and adults alike to "Pay attention to fire prevention!"



A big hit at our annual Open House is demoing our 1904 Steamer. Retirees Kevin Vorhees, and Kenneth Hulbert are kind enough to offer their time to keep this going each and every year. We thank them for their continuing commitment





# PBS WHAT'S ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

In August HBF had the privilege of hosting PBS's "What's on Your Bucket List?"

What's on Your Bucket List encourages older people to re-think and re-define their bucket lists. Age often age creates more and more limitations. Some are quite real, like finances, resources, and physical challenges. But others are more about how easy it is to buy into aging stereotypes, putting limitations on ourselves that don't need to be there if we are willing to take a deep breath and try something new! Nancy was an accomplished drag racer and has always had the dream of driving in a fire truck tiller. Fortunately for her HBF has the only Tiller in the area! We had such a great time helping Nancy cross this off her bucket list.



Our crew enjoyed getting to know Nancy and showing her the ropes and what it takes to operate the Tiller. Keep up with PBS to watch Nancy take on what very few people outside of the fire service get the opportunity to do! Great job Nancy!





# HBF IN THE COMMUNITY

This year HBF took part in events all over the community. Each year we participate on average in 3-5 community events or PR details per month. We are always happy to make a presence whenever we can.

HBF truly appreciates the support of our local community and recognizes how important it is to be active and present in the city that shows us so much love.



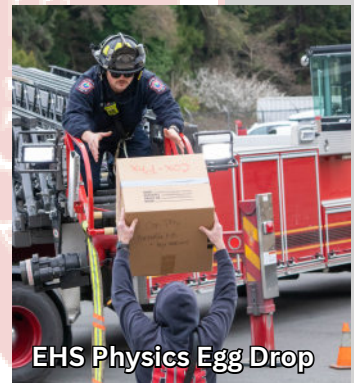
City of Eureka Employee Lunch



Get Out and Play Day



Lunch with Timber Ridge Residents



EHS Physics Egg Drop

Our crews were invited to enjoy lunch with the residents of Timber Ridge. It was a wonderful opportunity for our crew members to get to know these residents outside of an emergency situation.



Glen Paul Transportation Day



Shop with a Cop



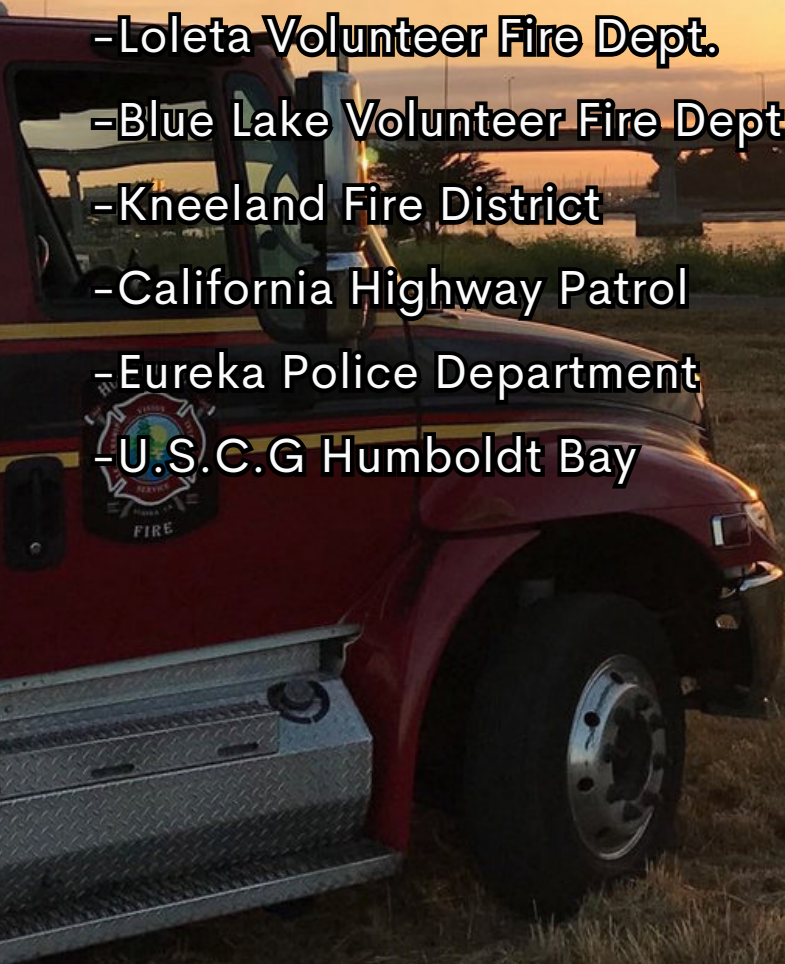
Halloween at Washington Elementary



# WE'RE THERE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Humboldt Bay Firefighters pride themselves on providing mutual aid and lending assistance to other fire departments across jurisdictional boundaries. In 2023, your Humboldt Bay Firefighters assisted the following departments and lent aid on the following incidents:

- Arcata Fire District
- SRF Lightning Complex
- Samoa Peninsula Fire District
- Humboldt County Sheriff
- Humboldt County OES
- CalFire HUU
- Loleta Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Dept.
- Kneeland Fire District
- California Highway Patrol
- Eureka Police Department
- U.S.C.G Humboldt Bay





# AND OUR NEIGHBORS ARE THERE FOR US

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Thank you to our partners who make protecting this community possible:

- Arcata Fire District
- Arcata Mad River Ambulance
- Blue Lake VFD
- CalFire HUU
- California Highway Patrol
- California OES
- City Ambulance of Eureka
- City of Eureka
- County of Humboldt
- Eureka Police and Fire Dispatch
- Eureka Police Department
- Ferndale VFD
- Fortuna VFD
- Humboldt Community Services District
- Humboldt County Sheriff's Office
- HMRA
- Kneeland Fire Protection District
- Loleta VFD
- PG&E
- Samoa Peninsula Fire District
- U.S.C.G Humboldt Bay

**And thank you to all our community supporters who keep us going!**



# WE'RE EXPANDING OUR REACH

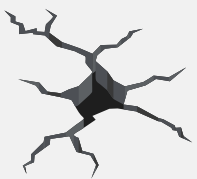
## HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE CERT

The national Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program educates volunteers about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations.

CERT offers a consistent, nationwide approach to volunteer training and organization that professional responders can rely on during disaster situations, allowing them to focus on more complex tasks.

The Humboldt Bay Fire JPA CERT Team, with 24 members works with the HBF Community Risk Reduction Specialist to assist the department year-round.

Noteworthy accomplishments from this year include:



Earthquake Mitigation Kits



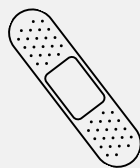
Processed & Delivered for Food for People



Awarded \$6,000+ in funding



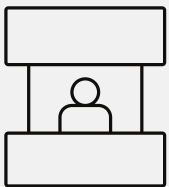
Provided Earthquake Preparedness Training



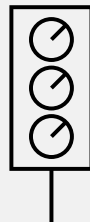
Trained in Stop the Bleed



Led CERT courses, graduating 6 new members



Staffed CERT Information Booths



Assisted with traffic control

Total Volunteer Hours >> **1,900+**





# WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN

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**SUBMIT YOUR FEEDBACK  
ABOUT HBF TODAY:**

English: <https://forms.gle/HUgRUoCtg5a9doxQ8>

Español: <https://forms.gle/qyKsXGz65ropSdFJA>

Hmong: <https://forms.gle/uTkJ7ir2m7YcthQr9>



# WE HELP BEYOND 9-1-1

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These are additional services we offer to our community:

- CPR / First Aid Classes
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Car Seat Checks
- Emergency Plan Consultation
- Home & Business Inspections
- Public Education & Tours

...and more!



## CONTACT US

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### Humboldt Bay Fire JPA

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[www.hbfire.org](http://www.hbfire.org)



@HumboldtBayFire





# THANK YOU

for your ongoing support

