

# HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

SECOND QUARTER (APRIL-JUNE) 2023



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# FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Hello,

We continue to work on rebuilding our staffing levels after multiple vacancies in the last year and are nearing the end of our second Firefighter Academy of 2023. Our two recruits, Bruin Hinton and Logan Fischer, are going through a challenging eight-week academy learning all of the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to be a Humboldt Bay Firefighter! We are currently recruiting for Firefighter again as our eligibility list has been exhausted. With this recruitment we expect to hold a third Firefighter Academy in the fall of 2023.

We held Apparatus Operator training for our newer firefighters in May and held a promotion ceremony in June to recognize our newest Engineers and Captain:

Michael Porter promoted to Engineer  
Wyatt Esola promoted to Engineer  
Nick Lyvers promoted to Captain

We also held our Annual Awards Dinner in early June and honored our 2022 Firefighter of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Service Award, and Medal of Valor.

2022 FFOY Firefighter Yolla Montalbin  
2022 Citizen Natalie Dy of Happy Donuts  
2022 Service Award Jenna Harris  
2022 Medal of Valor Tyler Gillespie

We very recently welcomed our new Cadet Firefighters to our new program. They will be training over the next two months to become active and able to respond to incidents and participate in specific firefighter training. The goal with the Cadet Firefighter Program is to develop, train, and mentor local cadets to become career firefighters in a two-year period. We are excited to see this program begin and the quality of our cadets! We are also working on a Junior Firefighter Program with a goal to start in the fall. More information to come.

The high rainfall we received this Winter and Spring have created significant weed and vegetation growth in the Eureka area. Please ensure yards are well-maintained to minimize any fire danger later in the summer. We are working with the City of Eureka and County of Humboldt Code Enforcement Divisions to manage and mitigate weed abatement issues. Please give us a call for any questions.

We are again prepared for the wildland fire season and stand ready to respond to local incidents, provide local Cal Fire station coverage, or respond out of County to assist our state mutual aid partners. Wildfire is always a real concern in our State and increasingly in our County. Please stop by and discuss how best to prepare yourself, your family, and your residence for the potential wildfires whether you are ranging near or far this Summer.

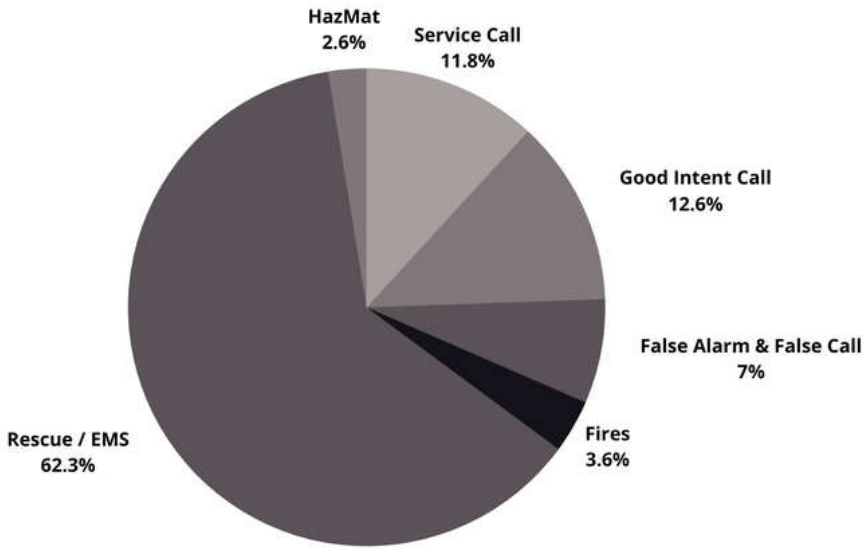
Wishing you all a safe, successful, and wonderful Summer!

Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson, Fire Chief

# 2023 Q2 INCIDENT STATISTICS

## 2023 Q2 (APR-JUN) INCIDENT STATISTICS



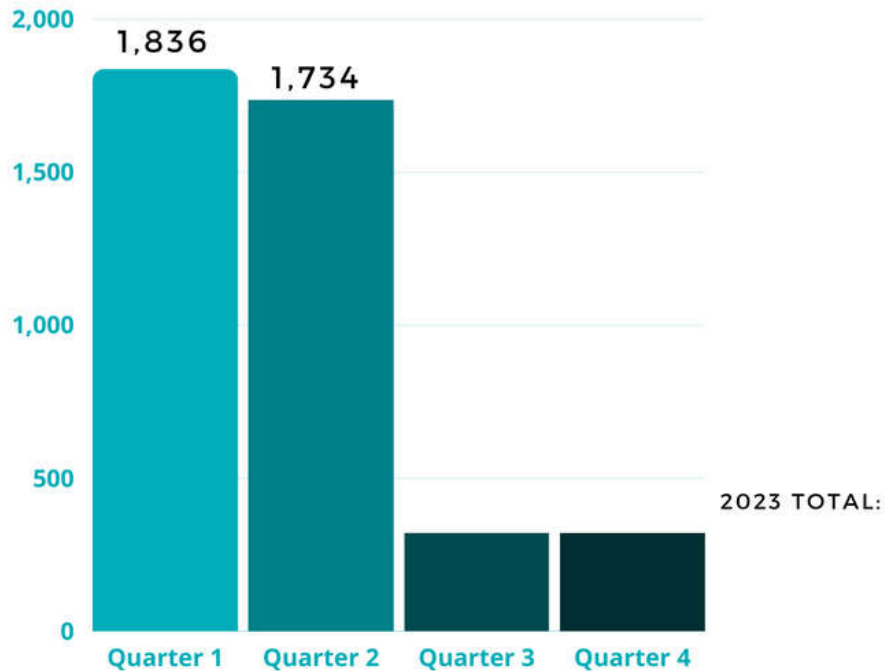
Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fires	62	3.58%
Overpressure Rupture Explosion, Over heat	1	.06%
Rescue / EMS	1,080	62.28%
HazMat	45	2.6%
Service Call	205	11.82%
Good Intent Call	219	12.63%
False Alarm	122	7.04%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,734</b>	<b>100%</b>



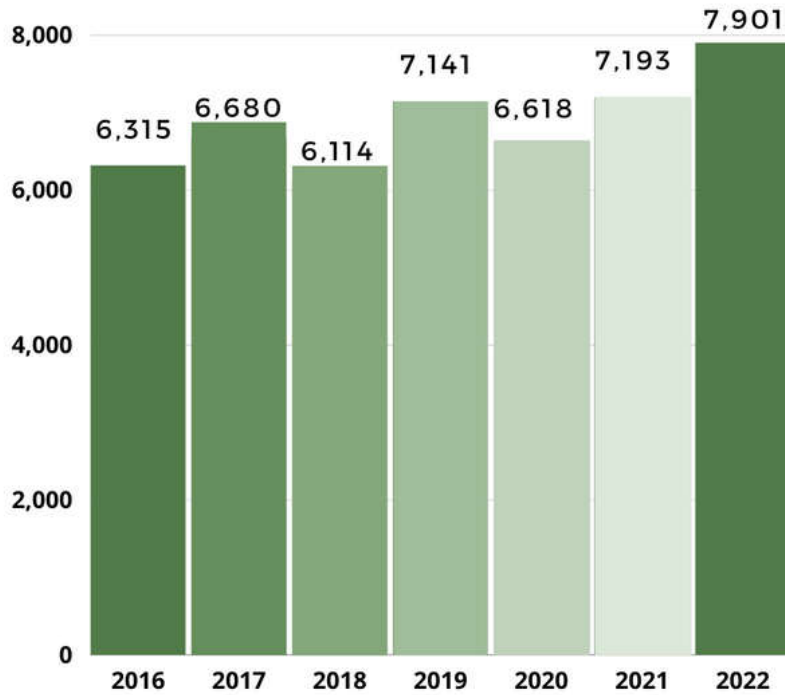
Humboldt Bay Fire | 707-441-4000 | info@hbfire.org | @HumboldtBayFire



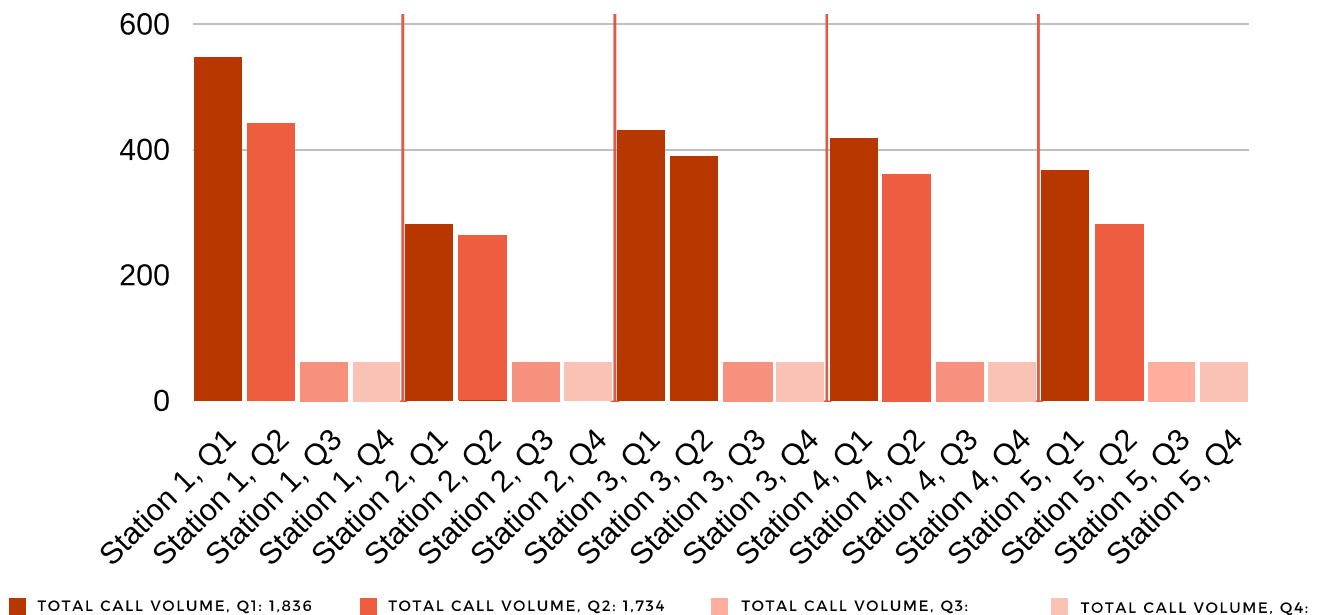
# 2023 DEPARTMENT RESPONSE NUMBERS



# HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT RESPONSE NUMBERS



# 2023 STATION RESPONSE NUMBERS



# STRUCTURE FIRE



Structure Fire 3206 Ingley Street, Eureka. At 1109am Friday April 21, 2023, Humboldt Bay Fire units including 3 engines, a ladder truck, and one duty chief, were dispatched to a structure fire in a residential structure at the 3206 Ingley Street in Eureka. Bystanders reported smoke coming from a second story bedroom window.

The first arriving unit was quickly on scene and reported a working fire in a two-story residence with light smoke coming from a second story window. Crews quickly deployed a hoseline to the second-floor bedroom and extinguished the fire within 10 minutes.

The Incident Commander had requested a second alarm for a potential attic fire and for station coverage. Damage was limited to the bed in one bedroom, with heavy smoke damage throughout the rest of the second story. One occupant was home at the time and suffered smoke inhalation injuries when he attempted to extinguish the fire.

Medical care was provided by City Ambulance who were staged on scene. The patient was briefly treated and refused transport. The pet dog was not injured in the fire, and the house was cleared of any other people or pets.

The other residents of the house were not home at the time of the incident.

HBF reminds residents to keep close attendance of open flames in living spaces, and to call 911 before attempting self-extinguishment. Any delay in calling 911 for an emergency may create significant injuries and damage due to with rapid fire spread



# HBF IN THE COMMUNITY

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

Community Services day at Washington Elementary. The kids learned about all of the different service occupations such as US Coast Guard, US Forest Service, CHP, HSCO, and North Coast Community Blood Bank. They were able to speak with each agency to get a glimpse of the day to day duties and check out some really cool vehicles.



Humboldt Bay Firefighters went to Freshwater School to give kids a look into what it's like to be a firefighter. It's important to discuss with your children what to do in an emergency situation. Do your children know your address and phone number? Does your family have a designated meeting spot? Education is the fire service's strongest prevention tool. For more information or kid friendly tips, call us at 707-441-4000



Humboldt Bay Fire was invited to have lunch with the residents of Timber Ridge. We had a wonderful time chatting over a meal and getting to know residents on a more personal level. We don't often get the chance to learn about their lives in our usual emergency encounters. It was a great time to connect with the community, and we thank Timber Ridge and its residents for having us!



# 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 are very excited to talk about the addition of 3 new Rescue Swimmers to our Water Rescue Program. The Water Rescue Program is not only a critical need for our community but it is an example of the Union and the Administration working together to build a better all-risk emergency service Fire Department.

We want to take the time to thank the HBF 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.



On June 1st – 3rd, Firefighters Rebecca Ciszewski, Griffin Barnes and Anthony Zamudio participated in the Open Water Rescue Class put on through the Humboldt County Fire Instructors Association and taught by our very own Fire Captain Dave Terry. All three Firefighters did great in the class, had fun and learned a lot of water rescue techniques that are specific to our local bay. Upon the completion of the course, the Water Rescue Team is back to full strength with 12 full members.

Each member is outfitted with the following gear: wet suit & dry suit, booties, gloves, hood, high visibility rash guard, PFD with quick release device fins, snorkel and a mask.

Each apparatus is equipped with the standard water rescue bag for shore based crews. This bag consists of life jackets for crew safety and rope bags which can be used to throw to a victim in the water and drag them safely to shore. Water rescue cans are also placed on each apparatus and these can be used by water rescue swimmers to float up to two people. Additionally, all apparatus have water rescue boards with handles capable of floating 6 individuals. It is the swimmers discretion which piece of equipment they choose to use based on the conditions given



Every swimmer has taken the SFT Open Water Rescuer- Basic course. The class is a 24 hour, 3 day class which covers shore based training, in-water rescue techniques, boat and helicopter operations, submerged victim searches and surf rescue components. Most individuals have also been trained in Swift Water Rescue as well. The three newest member each have 1 year to complete the Swift Water Rescue class. The team conducts 4 quarterly trainings each year and members are required to attend at least 50 % of these drills to stay on the team. Additionally, each member must pass a swim test that is 500 yards in under 12 minutes. We're proud to say most of our members are able to make the swim in under 10 minutes! All 12 fulltime team members receive 3% incentive pay. They are expected to swim and train off duty to maintain a higher level of physical fitness in order to meet the rigorous demands that a water rescue response would place on them. The team also conducts joint training with outside agencies such as the US Coast Guard, Southern Humboldt Tech Rescue and Eel River Tech Rescue.

We are available to respond throughout most of the bay, Elk River, Freshwater and all adjoining sloughs. We are available for mutual aid on a case by case basis. Swimmers are now able to respond and effect rescues off of any of the Harbor Districts boats. We were recently able to acquire a zodiac boat through grant funding and have been working on starting up a Boat Operator Program in addition to the Water Rescue Team. Once the personnel have been trained and the Boat Operator Program is up and running, it will expand our rescue capabilities throughout the bay.

We once again just want to thank everyone who has worked to maintain this excellent program that provides better community service to the greater Humboldt Bay area.



# DEPARTMENT TRAINING RECRUIT ACADEMY 2023

Humboldt Bay Fire completed a recruit academy for two new hires. The academy consisted of 9 weeks of training on various skills such as HazMat, ladders, rope rescue, hose, forcible entry, live fire, and more.

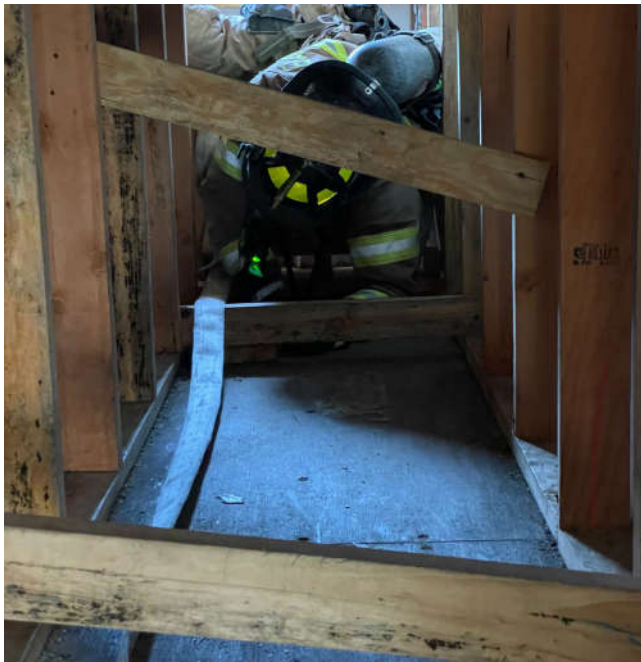


Pictured left: The recruits put on their Level A suits for HazMat training and decon. All of our Firefighters are trained at a 1st responder level for HazMat.

Pictured right: Battalion Chief Nick Launius discusses the importance of mental health and coping mechanisms with the recruits.



Pictured left: The recruits are completing a drill on firefighter survival training at our Chris Kemp Training Facility. This gives them the knowledge on how to survive if they were ever caught in an emergency situation during a structure fire where they are compromised.



Pictured right: Recruits participate in ladder training. Here they are training on the 35 foot ladder that requires 2-3 firefighters to raise and lower.



# DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Our firefighters continue to train every day to maintain their rescue and firefighting skillset.



Pictured left: The crews work on their rope rescue skills by training at various locations. Here they are training at Sequoia Park.

Pictured right: Our Paramedics participated in ACLS (advances cardiovascular life support) training. Here, they are refreshing their knowledge of the cardiac monitor. This equipment is used to help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest or other cardiac problems.



Pictured below: Our crews trained with our fire boat on a multi engine response at the Bonnie Gool Dock at the Adorni Center. We train regularly for the possibility of a fire incident on the bay as well as being able to assist the US Coast Guard in the event of an emergency on the water.



# HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE 2022 DEPARTMENT AWARDS

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.

Congratulations to these amazing recipients who always go above and beyond.



Yolla Montalbin  
Firefighter of the Year



Jenna Harris  
Service Award



Tyler Gillespie  
Medal of Honor



Natalie Dy, owner of Happy Donuts  
Citizen Award

# FIREFIGHTER IN FOCUS

## Ben Wilma



I was born and raised in Humboldt County and have spent most of my time growing up in Ferndale. I attended Ferndale High School and graduated in 2019. I then moved onto CR, where I took my first EMT course which got me interested in a career in the Fire Service.

Following CR, I moved to Chico, CA where I attended the Butte College Fire Academy. Upon completion of that course, I moved back home to Humboldt, and got a job at City Ambulance where I spent a year before getting hired by HBF. During my off days, I enjoy hiking, fishing, playing poker, and spending time with friends and family. I look forward to a long and successful career at Humboldt Bay and am excited to be getting my start in the fire service

# MEET OUR COMMUNITY RISK REDUCTION SPECIALIST



My name is Talia Flores and I am the Community Risk Reduction Specialist for Humboldt Bay Fire. I am originally from southern California from a little town called Yucaipa. I graduated from Yucaipa High in 2015 and moved to Humboldt to attend Humboldt State University. Even though I am a So Cal girl at heart, I fell in love with the area and haven't left since. I originally was going to school for business management with a minor in studio art, after a year I decided school was not for me and wasn't sure what I wanted to do. When I moved to Blue Lake in 2017 I was curious about the sirens that were always going off in town. I started to ask around and found out that the sirens were for the local volunteer fire department, and in 2019 decided to give it a try. I attended the Northern Humboldt Fire Academy in 2020 which was unfortunately cut short due to the pandemic. In 2021 I attended the Eel River Fire Academy to finish the remaining courses I needed.

I've always enjoyed helping people and being involved in the community, after two and a half years of volunteering with Blue Lake and being on the wildland strike team each summer I was promoted to Engineer, then to Captain the following year. I have a fantastic tight knit Blue Lake Fire family and am excited to be involved with another agency and give them all I have to offer. I have fallen in love with the fire service and am so excited to be given the opportunity to have a career with Humboldt Bay Fire.

In my free time I love to do anything outdoors. I like to forage, hike, garden, and of course jump in the river during summer. I also love to be creative. I draw, paint, tattoo, and like to use any other medium I can get my hands on. I absolutely love animals and have two cats, Biscuits and Cleo and a jack russell chihuahua named Joey that keeps me busy.

So far Humboldt Bay Fire has been exciting and very welcoming. I am ecstatic for my new career and can't wait to see what the future holds!



# DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS



## Promotions

**Engineer:** Wyatt Esola (left) and Michael Porter (right)

**Captain:** Nick Lyvers (middle)



## New Hires

**Firefighters:** pictured left to right Logan Fischer and Bruin Hinton

# DISPATCHER IN FOCUS

Dakotah Jacks



Dakotah is one of our newest dispatchers. She grew up in Humboldt County and went to Eureka High School and College of the Redwoods. In her free time, she enjoys cooking and baking, and also likes attending drift car events. During her down time, she spends time with her adorable black lab puppy named Sophie.

Dakotah applied to dispatch because she thought it was an interesting career. When she came in for a sit along she watched a senior dispatcher and thought it looked difficult but figured, with hard work, it was something she could learn. Dakotah likes that every day in dispatch is different. She says the job is challenging because it is all new but she is looking forward to improving on her skills.

Welcome to the Eureka Police and Humboldt Bay Fire Communications Center Dakotah!  
Congratulations on completing the training program

# WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS TIPS

We recognized Wildfire Preparedness Week May 1-7 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

Deputy Chief Bill Reynolds, 26yrs (June)

Captain Nathan Baxley, 18 yrs (June)

Captain Ben Miller, 18 yrs (June)

Battalion Chief Nick Launius, 17 yrs (May)

Captain Trevor Morris, 17 yrs (May)

Engineer Neil Butler, 17 yrs (May)

Engineer Kevin Stokes, 16 yrs (April)

Firefighter Yolla Montalbin, 16 yrs (April)

Captain John Goodman, 15 yrs (June)

Engineer Brett Egbert, 11 yrs (April)

Captain Matthew Dennis, 11 yrs (May)

Fire Inspector Kemonte Cook, 2 yr (June)

## ADDITIONAL WAYS TO FOLLOW HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE

