

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FOURTH QUARTER (OCTOBER-DECEMBER) 2023



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FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Welcome to the final newsletter of 2023 from Humboldt Bay Fire. It has been another busy and challenging quarter.

We welcomed new Battalion Chief Jon Chambers in August as the new C crew shift Battalion. Jon has over 15 years fire service with Eureka Fire and HBF and we are very fortunate and appreciative to have him back. He has taken over the Training Program and as a State Fire Training Instructor, he is bringing a lot of new classes, energy, and innovation that we are excited about.

Next week we are completing a Firefighter Academy with four new firefighters graduating and ready to serve on all three of our platoons. Welcome Firefighters Michael Weiland, Max Michael, Elijah Wenger, and Gerry Spaeth!

We also conducted an Engineer's exam recently that saw the promotion of Firefighter Zamudio to Fire Engineer. Engineer Zamudio performed very well through the testing and was well prepared thanks to his crew and mentors.

Please join us for a Badge Pinning Ceremony on December 22 at Fire Station 1 happening at 4pm. 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, a chimney fire, or a stovepipe that hasn't been cleaned or inspected in a while, these incidents have the potential for disastrous consequences. 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.

Along 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, are well prepared for the conditions, and drive defensively!

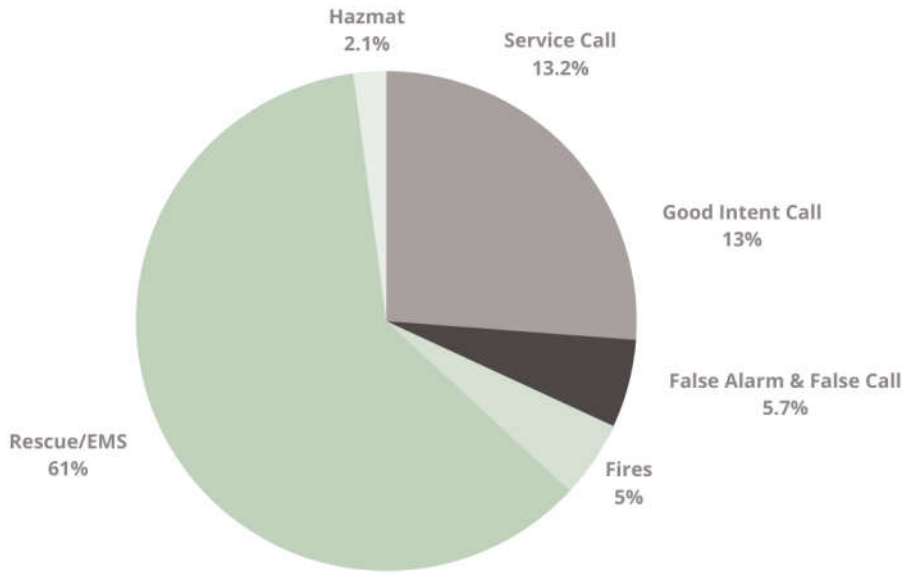
From our family to yours, we wish you a safe, bountiful, and successful 2024.

Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson
Fire Chief

2023 Q3 INCIDENT STATISTICS

2023 Q3 (JUL-SEPT) INCIDENT STATISTICS



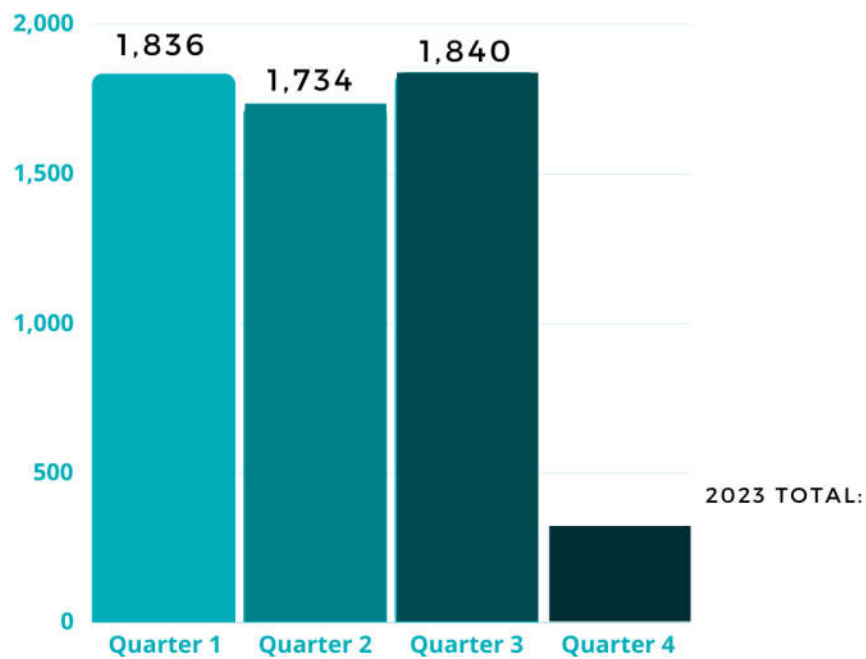
Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fires	92	5%
Rescue / EMS	1122	60.98%
HazMat	39	2.12%
Service Call	243	13.21%
Good Intent Call	239	12.99%
False Alarm	105	5.71%
Total	1840	100%



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

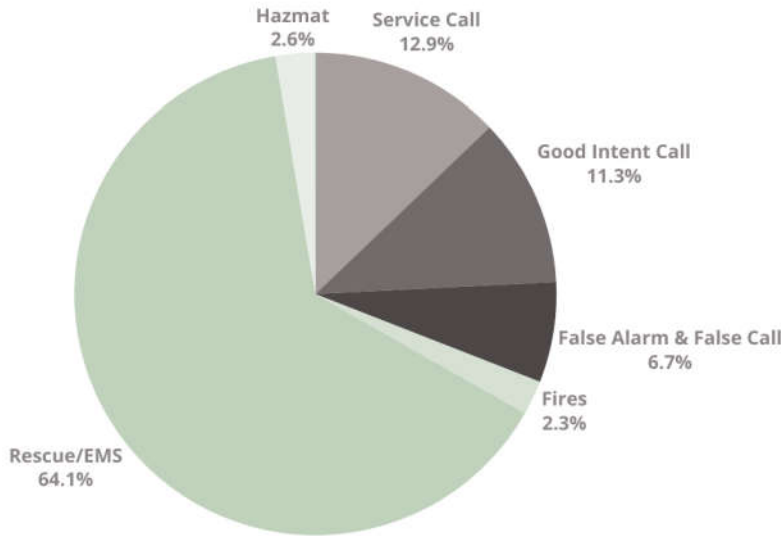


2023 DEPARTMENT RESPONSE NUMBERS



2023 Q4 INCIDENT STATISTICS

2023 Q4 (OCT-DEC) INCIDENT STATISTICS



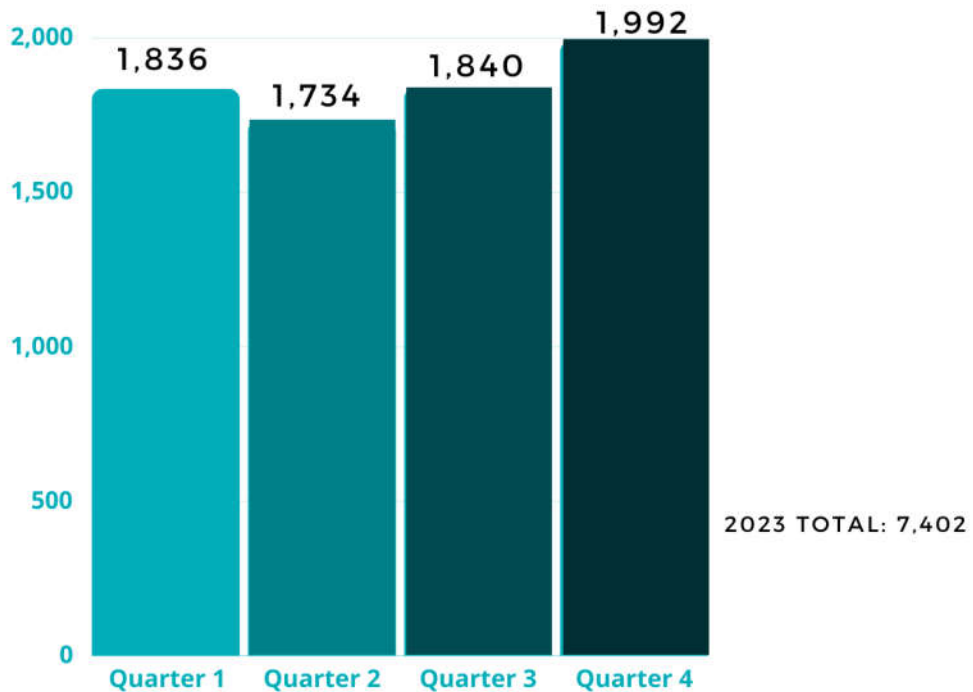
Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fires	46	2.31%
Rescue / EMS	1277	64.11%
HazMat	52	2.61%
Service Call	256	12.85%
Good Intent Call	226	11.35%
False Alarm	134	6.73%
Special Incident Type	1	0.05%
Total	1992	100%



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2023 DEPARTMENT RESPONSE NUMBERS



STRUCTURE FIRES

At 0849 hours on Wednesday November 1st, 2023, Humboldt Bay Fire responded with 3 Engines, 1 Truck, and 2 Chief Officers to a residential structure fire at the 1200 block of Allard Ave. While responding to the initial call, we received a report of a possible disabled occupant inside of the residence that may need assistance in evacuating.

The 1st arriving Engine made entry into the structure and discovered fire coming out of the back side. The fire was quickly extinguished and it was confirmed that no occupants were inside. The remainder of smoke was ventilated and the entirety of the residence suffered heavy smoke and fire damage. There were no civilian or Firefighter injuries. The fire was located and controlled within a few minutes of the arrival of the 1st Engine. Damages are estimated to be approximately \$25,000. A fire investigation was conducted and the cause of the fire was determined to be accidental in nature.



At 1734 hours on Tuesday November 28th, 2023, Humboldt Bay Fire responded with four Engines, and a Chief Officer to a structure fire at the 1200 block of Ridgewood Dr. While responding to the initial call, we received a report of a possible exposure to the vegetation. The 1st arriving Engine secured a water source and set up for a defensive attack. The vacant trailer was fully involved with no spread to the vegetation. The second arriving engine provided support and assisted with fire attack and all other engines were canceled. There was a report of explosions and it was determined the owner had butane canisters and propane in the trailer. Crews remained on scene for approximately two hours for overhaul operations.

There were no Firefighter injuries. The property owner sustained minor burns to both hands and was evaluated by City Ambulance. The fire was located and controlled within fifteen minutes of the arrival of the 1st Engine. Damages are estimated to be approximately \$53,000. A fire investigation was conducted and the cause of the fire was determined to be accidental in nature.

HBF IN THE COMMUNITY

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

Humboldt Bay Firefighters Union -Local 652 "Share the Magic of Christmas" Toy Drive was a great success. HBFL 652 is proud to have the longest-running toy drive in Humboldt County. We were able to make a monetary donation to The Salvation Army as well.

New and unwrapped toys for children of all ages were dropped off at all five of our stations and other various locations throughout our community.

Thank you to our wonderful community for all your support for our Spirit of Christmas Toy Drive. We had a packed truck full of toys and more! This could not be possible without all of your help and support!



BARK IN THE PARK 2023



Dear Humboldt Bay Local 652 Members and Supporters,

We are thrilled to report the success of the Bark in the Park 5k fundraiser that took place on October 21st, 2023. It was a joyous occasion, marked by the return of this beloved event after a hiatus since 2019. The Humboldt Bay Local 652 organized the event with the goal of not only promoting community fitness but also making a meaningful contribution to a cause close to our hearts.

This year's beneficiary was the California Rescue Dog Association (CARDA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to training, certifying, and deploying highly-qualified search dog teams. CARDA works in collaboration with law enforcement and other public safety agencies to locate missing persons. We are proud to announce that, thanks to the incredible support of our community, the fundraiser generated over \$3600 for CARDA's vital mission.

The turnout for the event was nothing short of spectacular, with close to 65 enthusiastic participants lacing up their running shoes to traverse the scenic trails of Sequoia Park. Runners, walkers, and furry friends alike joined in the spirit of camaraderie, making it a memorable day filled with laughter, determination, and community spirit.

Humboldt Bay Local 652 extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone who participated, volunteered, and contributed to the success of the Sequoia Park 5K Fun Run. Your support has not only made this event a resounding triumph but has also made a meaningful impact on the efforts of CARDA.

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Humboldt Bay Local 652

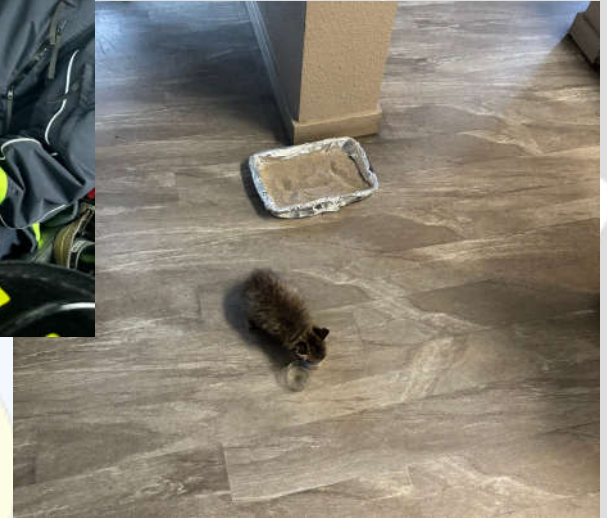
HBF'S ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE 2023

Humboldt Bay Fire held their Annual Open House this year during National Fire Prevention Week. We had a great turn out! There was even a special guest appearance made by Sparky The Fire Dog!



RESCUES

The crew on Engine 8112 encountered an adorable kitten during a call today. Sadly, its owner had passed away, leaving the kitty in need of food and care. The crew brought the kitten back to the station, ensuring its safety and even providing a makeshift litter box. The kitten was taken home by a firefighter's family and eventually went to live with a very sweet and loving permanent family.



On Sunday November 26th 2023 @ 1400 hours Humboldt Bay Fire was dispatched to a Water Rescue in Humboldt Bay near the Wharfinger Building located at 1 Marina Way. Humboldt Bay Fire responded with 1 Chief Officer, 3 Engines and 1 Truck. While responding HBF units were advised a subject was reported in the waters of Humboldt Bay between the Wharfinger Building and Samoa. HBF requested the United States Coast Guard also respond to assist. HBF Truck 8181 arrived at the Wharfinger Building and confirmed a subject was in the water approximately 300 yards off shore drifting south in Humboldt Bay with the outgoing tide. The swimmer from Truck 8181 immediately deployed into the water with a rescue board towards the victim. Other HBF units staged at locations along Humboldt Bay south of the Wharfinger Building including the Schnieder Dock, Del Norte Pier and Bulk Fuel Plant. The swimmer from T8181 contacted the victim who was conscious, hypothermic and in distress. A second swimmer from HBF Engine 8115 deployed into the water from the Del Norte Pier and assisted the swimmer from Truck 8181 with bringing the victim back to shore. The victim was suffering from hypothermia and transported to St. Joseph Hospital by City Ambulance.

LIVE FIRE TRAINING

The property owner was generous enough to allow us to conduct a live fire training for our crews and our recruit academy. This type of training is invaluable because opportunities like this do not come up often in a non-emergency scenario. The recruits learn the importance of flow path and how fire behaves without the pressure of potential civilian injuries or exposure to other properties.

Each recruit worked closely with seasoned Firefighters or Company Officers to get important tips and tricks of the trade.



FIREFIGHTER IN FOCUS



My name is Anthony Zamudio. I grew up in an East Bay city called Dublin, Ca with an older brother, younger sister, and my mother and father. Scholastics, playing soccer, and swimming for the local competitive teams occupied most of my time as a child and into my early teens. After graduating high school, I chose to attend CSU Chico where I majored in Kinesiology with a minor in Public Health. This was the beginning of my fire career. After graduating college, I was accepted to the Butte College Fire Academy where my mental and physical strength would be put to the test for 20 grueling weeks. It was an amazing experience that shaped me into the firefighter I am today.

Once the academy had come to an end, I worked as an intern for Willows FD, an EMT for an ambulance company, and a seasonal Cal-Fire firefighter for the Amador El-Dorado Unit. My personal goal was to work for a municipal fire department which is ultimately what led my beautiful wife and me to Humboldt Bay Fire JPA. This upcoming new year will mark my second year with the department and I couldn't be happier. I am learning to love the area as I've recently picked up hunting, mountain biking, and the occasional camping trip into the mountains with my pup. Looking to the future, I hope to continue to train hard at work in order to provide the best customer care possible and enjoy every off day with my amazing little family.

MEET OUR NEWEST BATTALION CHIEF



Jon has lived in Humboldt for 17 years. He has 21 years of professional firefighting experience with three different agencies including 15 years with Humboldt Bay Fire. He is also a Fire Investigator, State Fire Instructor, and HazMat Specialist. He pursued Firefighting as a way to help others and enjoys how dynamic and different each day is and how many different disciplines you have to master to be good at the craft. He is a family man and volunteers much of his time in support of the congregation he and his family attend. His hobbies are firefighting, construction and travel. We are happy to have Jon as a strong asset to not only Humboldt Bay Fire but to our community as well.



DEPARTMENT PROMOTIONS

Humboldt Bay Fire would like to recognize the following individuals for all of their hard work and dedication to not only the department but to our community.

Congratulations!

Battalion Chief

Jon Chambers

Firefighter

Max Michael
Gerry Spaeth
Elijah Wenger
Michael Weiland

Engineer

Anthony Zamudio

HazMat

Wyatt Esola

Boat Operators

Brett Christensen
Tyler Gillespie
Scott Gordinier
Ray Marchi
Mike Tyson
Kameron Waters

DISPATCHER IN FOCUS



Meet our newest dispatcher Jenna! Jenna has lived in Humboldt County for just over 5 years now but visited the area often when she was younger. Jenna spends her free time hiking and also going on walks near her home with her son and her yellow lab. Jenna and her son also love to find new parks to play at and attend as many local events as they can. Jenna became interested in dispatching due to having a background in radio communications and wanted to find a way to apply that skill in service to her community. Jenna has enjoyed the challenge of the training program so far and is excited at the prospect of completing her training and being able to work independently. Welcome to the team Jenna!

WINTER SAFETY TIPS



CELL PHONE, CHARGER



FIRST AID KIT



JUMPER CABLES



TIRE CHAINS OR SNOWTIRES



FLARES

BUILDING AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT FOR YOUR CAR



WATER, SNACKS



FULL TANK OF GAS



FLASHLIGHT



BAG OF SAND OR CAT LITTER



AMERICA'S **PrepareAthon!**
BE SMART. TAKE PART. PREPARE.



BOOTS, MITTENS, WARM CLOTHES



BLANKET



TOW ROPE



SHOVEL, ICE SCRAPER, SNOW BRUSH

Winter

Holiday Fire Safety



Did you know?

Nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires.
- Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry tree is dangerous because it can catch on fire easily.
- Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.



PUT A FREEZE on Winter Holiday Fires

IT'S FUN TO DECORATE FOR THE WINTER HOLIDAYS, BUT HOLIDAY DECORATIONS CAN INCREASE YOUR RISK FOR A HOME FIRE. AS YOU DECK THE HALLS THIS SEASON, BE FIRE SMART.



Half of the home decoration fires in December are started by candles.



More than 1/3 of home decoration fires are started by candles.



Christmas is the peak day for candle fires.



Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that burns.



A dry Christmas tree can burn very hot and very fast.



More than 1 in every 5 Christmas tree fires were caused by a heat source too close to the tree.



Read manufacturer's instructions for the number of light strands to connect.



Make sure your tree is at least 3 feet away from heat sources like fireplaces, radiators, space heaters, candles or heat vents. Also, make sure your tree does not block exits.



Get rid of your tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.



Humboldt Bay Fire JPA
533 C Street, Eureka CA 95501
(707)441-400



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/holiday.html and nfpa.org/winter.



Fire Safety during Winter Storms

Winter storms can happen almost anywhere. They can cause us problems. Know what to do before, during and after a storm. This will help keep you and your family safe from a winter fire.

- **Test all smoke alarms. Do this at least once a month. This way you will know they are working. Install carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Test the alarms.**
- **Plan two ways out of the home in case of an emergency. Clear driveway and front walk of ice and snow. This will provide easy access to your home.**
- **Make sure your house number can be seen from the street. If you need help, firefighters will be able to find you.**
- **Be ready in case the power goes out. Have flashlights on hand. Also have battery-powered lighting and fresh batteries. Never use candles.**
- **Stay aware of winter weather. Listen to the television or radio for updates. Watch for bulletins online.**
- **Check on neighbors. Check on others who may need help.**
- **Generators should be used outdoors. Keep them away from windows and doors. Do not run a generator inside your garage, even if the door is open.**
- **Stay away from downed wires. Report any downed wires to authorities.**
- **Be ready if the heat stops working. Use extra layers of clothes and blankets to stay warm. If you use an emergency heat source, keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away.**
- **Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room. Turn them off when you go to bed.**

important reminder

There are more home fires in winter than in any other season. Half of all home heating fires happen in December, January and February.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Fact

Nearly half of all space heater fires involve electric space heaters.



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

nfpa.org/education ©NFPA 2017



HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE ANNIVERSARIES

BATTALION CHIEF MICHAEL LANDRY, 20 YRS (OCTOBER)

FIREFIGHTER KYLE BROWN, 10 YRS (OCTOBER)

CAPTAIN BRANDON HARLANDER, 7 YRS (DECEMBER)

ENGINEER TYLER GILLESPIE, 6 YRS (OCTOBER)

FIREFIGHTER JORGE HERRERA , 5 YRS (OCTOBER)

ENGINEER MICHAEL PORTER, 5 YRS (OCTOBER)

ENGINEER TYLER DI MICELI, 1 YEAR (OCTOBER)

FIREFIGHTER BEN WILMA, 1 YEAR (OCTOBER)

FIREFIGHTER JEFF WOOD, 1 YEAR (OCTOBER)



EST.

2011

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO FOLLOW HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE

