

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FIRST QUARTER (JANUARY - MARCH) 2022



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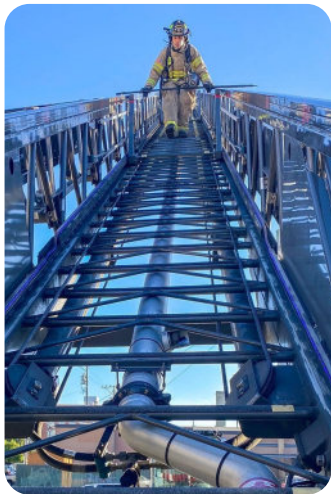


FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

This year began on low and high notes with several of our firefighters off due to the omicron variant, and the start of a 2-person Firefighter Recruit academy to fill positions that were vacant due to retirements. The recruits went through a 6-week academy undergoing training in hose, ladders, fire attack, fire dynamics, rescue, search operations, rope rescue, haz mat, community risk reduction, mental health, EMS, water operations, firefighter rescue, wildland firefighting, and confined space operations.

Our Type 3 fire engine E8136 responded to Willow Creek as part of the emergency declaration response with several other agencies following a severe snow storm in early January.

As part of our apparatus replacement plan, and with great support from our parent agencies, we were able to order two new apparatus in February. Due to the worldwide materials shortage they will only be received in late 2023. Our Apparatus Committee were able to quickly develop custom specifications for a new tiller ladder truck and pumper engine to replace two 25-year-old apparatus.



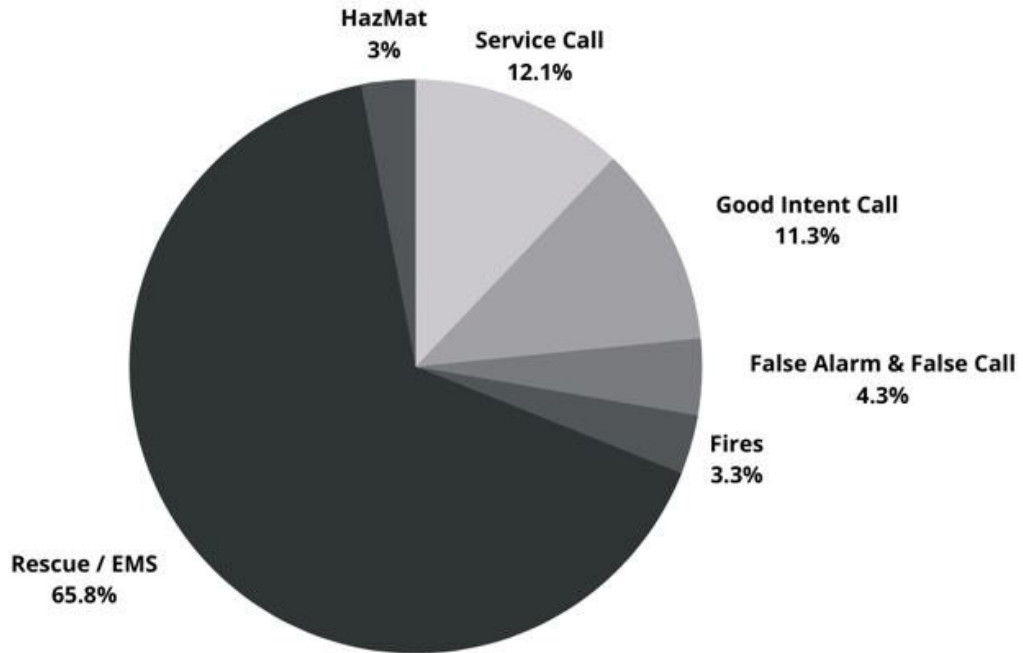
We have had two promotions this quarter with Firefighter Harlander promoted to Engineer and Engineer Dennis promoted to Interim Captain. We have also had several members be qualified in our specialty programs: Firefighter Porter completed his Paramedic qualifications; Community Risk Reduction Specialist Segui qualified as a Car Seat Technician; Captains Freeman and Morris, with Engineers Tyson and Waters completed HazMat Specialist training, Battalion Chief Emmons underwent Safety Officer training at the National Fire Academy, and Battalion Chief Launius completed Strike team Leader training at the Fresno Training Symposium. In addition, several members went through an

an Apparatus Operator Academy held over a week to become qualified as Apparatus Operators. Congratulations on your accomplishments and thank you for your commitment and dedication to improving our service!

We have seen a 50% increase in fires in the past few weeks due to a variety of factors. This is a reminder to be vigilant and never leave cooking food or items unattended on a stove, candles or open-flame near combustibles, and multiple appliances plugged into the same electrical outlet! Practicing fire safety in the home is a responsibility we all bear in protecting ourselves, our loved ones, and our community. Please stop by to find out how we can help you perform a safety assessment for your home or workplace.

Thank you for all your support!
Sean Robertson, Fire Chief

2022 Q1 (JANUARY - MARCH) INCIDENT STATISTICS



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fires	65	3.33%
Rescue / EMS	1,284	65.85%
HazMat	59	3.03%
Service Call	236	12.1%
Good Intent Call	221	11.33%
False Alarm	84	4.31%
Special Incident Type	1	0.05%
Total	1,950	100%

FIRE RESPONSES

STRUCTURE FIRE, 900 BLOCK OF WEST HARRIS



At about 4:43p.m. on Tuesday, January 4, the sight and smell of smoke coming from a boarded-up home on the 900 block of West Harris Street alerted a neighbor to call 9-1-1, hoping that no one was trapped inside. Humboldt Bay Fire crews responded quickly. Even before they reached the home they could smell the fire as smoke crept down the block. Once in view, they saw thick grey smoke billowing from a single-story home and began attacking the fire.

Crews worked offensively, extinguishing the flames and searching for any occupants. Thankfully, the home was unoccupied and no civilians or firefighters were injured. Crews were able to fully extinguish the fire and prevent any spread to nearby homes and vegetation.

Ready full story [here](#).

STRUCTURE FIRE, 3200 BLOCK OF Q STREET

On January 2 around 7:35p.m. HBF crews responded to a structure fire involving a detached garage on the 3200 block of Q St. The responding crews were able to put a stop to the fire on the first floor and exterior of the building.

On January 3 at about 5:01a.m., crews responded once again to a structure fire involving a detached garage on the 3200 block of Q St. This time the structure was fully involved and losses are estimated at about \$75,000.



STRUCTURE FIRE, 2900 BLOC OF GREENWOOD HEIGHTS DRIVE

On March 13, 2022, at 8:36 P.M., Humboldt Bay Fire responded to a reported structure fire on the 2900 Block of Greenwood Heights Drive. The first arriving engine found a fully involved detached utility building and attached wood shed, with fire impinging on the nearby residence and spreading to the wildland.

Fire crews had the structure fire controlled in about 20 minutes. Gasoline containers that had recently been filled repeatedly re-ignited. Fire crews ultimately controlled the gasoline fire with dry chemical extinguishers. While personnel were fighting the structure fire, personnel from other units attacked the vegetation fire and contained it within an hour

Read full story [here](#)..

STRUCTURE FIRE, 1400 BLOCK OF RIDGEWOOD DRIVE

At 3:28p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2022, Humboldt Bay Fire units were dispatched to report of a home on fire on the 1400 block of Ridgewood Drive.

Engine 8112 was the first of six units to arrive on scene and found a moderate amount of dark smoke drifting from the front door. The homeowner had already evacuated and stated there was no one else inside which crews confirmed with a thorough search. The crews attacking the fire found that it was confined to the kitchen and, after mitigating some hazards in the area, crews were able to knock down the fire quickly. Once the fire was completely extinguished they cleared the residence of smoke and the building was turned back over to the homeowner.

Read the full story [here](#)



HBF assisted Samoa Peninsula Fire District and Arcata Fire District with a structure fire on 3.22.2022



STRUCTURE FIRE, BEECHWOOD DR

At 4:11a.m. on Friday, March 25, 2022 Humboldt Bay Fire was dispatched to report of a house on fire on the 6100 block of Beechwood Drive.

The home was already 50% involved with fire when crews arrived and began fire attack. Thankfully, both occupants of the home had already made it out with one of their dogs. Unfortunately, the other dog did not make it out of the home and ultimately perished in the fire.

After all was said and done, crews spent about two and a half hours on scene extinguishing the fire and there were no civilian or firefighter injuries. Our hearts go out to the family who lost their dog.

Read the full story [here](#)



STRUCTURE FIRE, SKYLINE DR

At 9:31a.m. on Friday, March 25, 2022 Humboldt Bay Fire was dispatched to report of large amounts of smoke flowing from an attached garage with no answer from anyone inside.

The first crew in entered the home to search for residents and to contain the fire to the garage. Next, crews used a K-12 Rescue Saw to make entry into the garage through the electric garage door which wasn't operational due to fire damage occurring inside. Once inside, crews were able to extinguisher the fire before it spread to the interior of the home. There were no injuries to civilians or firefighters as a result of this fire,

Read the full story [here](#)

RECRUIT ACADEMY

Starting with the hiring process recruit firefighters must possess basic knowledge, skills, and abilities as an EMT-1 and State Certified Firefighter 1.

Through their academy we build up-on those basics to instruct the recruit in the “Humboldt Bay Way” of firefighting, teaching them:

- Firefighter Safety
 - EMS
 - SCBA
 - Hose
- Ladders
- Ventilation
- Forcible Entry
- Search & Rescue
- RIC & Firefighter Survival
- Truck Company Operations
 - Building construction
 - Fire Behavior
 - Wildland Firefighting
 - Extrication
 - Hazardous Materials
 - Technical Rescue

Through a year of probation the recruit will continue to be tested and develop a strong foundation as a Humboldt Bay Firefighter.

At the beginning of their academy the recruit is given an axe that is blunt, rusted, burned, and splintered with the assignment to return it polished and sharpened. Much like the recruit the axe is a tool with potential for useful work that needs much refining to reveal itself. As the recruit has worked on refining the tool, so we have we worked on refining the firefighter. Through that process, that work, the ability of the tool and the recruit has been developed.

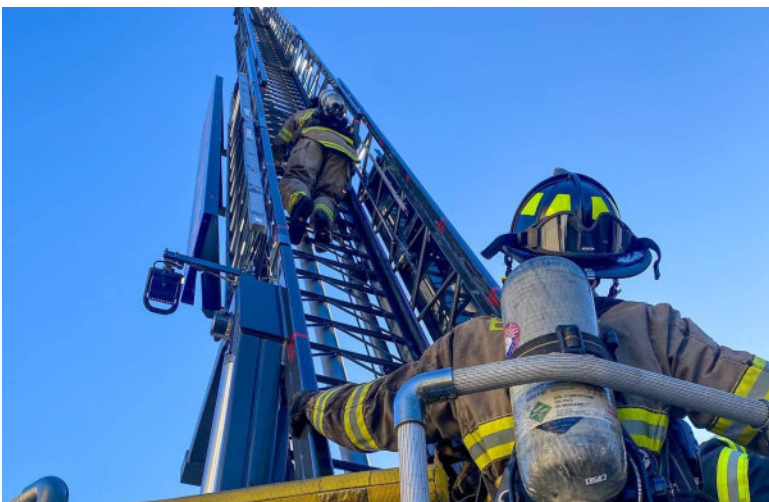


Above: training on aerial operations, learning how to climb at all pitches with and without tools, flowing water and tip controls and effective rescue from upper stories of buildings.



Above: Firefighter water survival training

Below: The recruits presenting their axes at the badge pinning ceremony February 11, 2022



WATER RESCUE IN EUREKA SLOUGH

At 4:48p.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 Humboldt Bay Fire crews received report of a person trapped in a metal boat in the Eureka Slough.

We initiated a water rescue response, positioning engines staffed with rescue swimmers on either end of the slough. The first rescue swimmer deployed from underneath the Highway 101 Bridge near Target and paddled northbound to reach the subject stranded on a mud flat. Once there, the Swimmer was able to determine that the occupant of the boat was not suffering from any injuries but had been stranded on the flat for over an hour, unable to call for help. A second Rescue Swimmer deployed from the Jacobs Avenue loop. Together

the Swimmers were able to free the boat from the mud, instructing the occupant to steer the boat ashore.



Read full story [here](#).

BADGE PINNING, FEBRUARY 11, 2022

At the Badge Pinning of our new recruits on February 11, 2022, we also recognized our Medical Director, Dr. Gerdes, for helping with our Paramedic Program and navigating this ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and Firefighter Porter on completing his Paramedic Training Program and becoming a NCEMS Accredited Firefighter/Paramedic.



Battalion Chief/Paramedic Tim Citro recognizing our Medical Director Eric Gerdes



Battalion Chief/Paramedic Tim Citro recognizing Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Porter

FIREIFGHTER IN FOCUS

ENGINEER
LYNDON POWELL



Hi, I'm Lyndon Powell and I am an Engineer with Humboldt Bay fire. I was born in Eureka and graduated from Eureka High in 2003. As many people do around here, I grew up enjoying sports and the outdoors. Being the oldest of 5 siblings, I always had someone to play with. After high school I went to College of the Redwoods, Humboldt State University and graduated from Chico State with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and a minor in Rural and Urban Planning in 2010.

My time in college was fun, and it was highlighted by getting to spend it all with my now wife Brittany. We both had a desire to give back to the community we grew up in so we moved back to Eureka after graduating college. I worked a few different local government jobs, still trying to find my calling. It was suggested to me that I look into becoming a volunteer firefighter. After doing a ride along I was hooked. I loved responding to calls, helping the community, and doing a more physical job. In 2016 I became a volunteer firefighter and in 2018 I was hired on full time.

My time with the department has brought a lot of growth for my family and I. I have joined the USAR team and was promoted to Engineer. Brittany and I now have a 3.5-year-old daughter named Mila. When I'm not at work I enjoy adventuring with my family, playing rec basketball, golf, and working on our home.

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 hiring of two new professional Humboldt Bay firefighters. These new firefighters are a huge benefit to the community and the department. Staffing for the fire service has become increasingly difficult across the state and the nation. With high physical standards, and increased mental and educational standards in the American Fire Service, many have decided to look to higher-paying and less dangerous careers. Combined with the baby boomer generation retiring in large numbers, a significant void has been created.

Humboldt Bay Fire has struggled to recruit and retain quality employees in the past few years. In the not so distant past (15 to 20 years ago) hundreds of people would apply for a single job, whereas our more recent recruitments have had very few applicants. Deadlines for completing the application process have even had to be extended to create a qualified candidate pool to draw from. To exacerbate that when qualified people have been hired, many have left for higher paying jobs out of the area, and some have left the fire service altogether for other lines of work.

There have been many benefits to this new hiring but here are just a few:

- 1) With increasing staffing levels overtime has been significantly reduced, saving the department money and preventing fatigue and burn out for existing employees.
- 2) With this hiring we will be better prepared to build for the future to prepare for employees retiring or moving to other departments or careers.
- 3) It takes years to develop a firefighter to be prepared through knowledge, skill, ability, and experience to be able to move into the next rank: Engineer (the driver of the fire engine or truck and expert in all the equipment carried on the apparatus and its use) and into Captain (the supervisor and decision-maker for the engine or truck company). By developing all our employees now we will be better prepared to fill the various roles in the department.

Humboldt Bay Fire Department Professional Firefighters Union Local 652 wants to sincerely thank all of our families, our Board of Directors, our parent agencies, the Fire Chief, local sponsors, business partners, local unions, and our community for supporting the hiring of firefighters who can provide the highest level of service our community depends on.

UNION SPOTLIGHT CONT.

LET'S MEET OUR NEW FIREFIGHTERS!



Picture Description: James Stevens and Anthony Zamudio perform vertical ventilation training on Humboldt Bay Fire's ventilation prop at Kemp Training Center. Keep up the hard work guys!

James Stevens was born and raised in Santa Barbara, CA. He was raised by his two amazing grandparents who have helped him become the man he is today. He has an AS degree in Fire Science and a AA degree in Behavioral Science. He went to Allan Hancock college for his AS and his Firefighter 1 academy. He decided to become a firefighter because he wanted a career where every day was different and he wanted to make a positive impact on someone's worst day to make it better. He decided to take the job with Humboldt Bay Fire because he loves the outdoors. In his free time, he loves to fish, camp, backpack, and beyond. He loves all outdoor hobbies. He moved up here with his partner who has been by his side since he started his pursuit of the fire service. He thinks it will be a great experience for him and he is looking forward to serving the community.

Anthony Zamudio was born in Castro Valley and spent the majority of his childhood in Dublin, Ca with his mother (Cheryl), father (Carlos), older brother (Matt), and his younger sister (Juliana). After high school, he chose to further his education and attend California State University, Chico where he obtained a degree in Kinesiology, with minors in Public Health and Exercise Science. These educational fields helped out immensely when he made the decision to follow his passion in the fire service and enroll into Butte College's Firefighter 1 Academy. After holding internships with Willows and Hamilton City, he spent two seasons with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in the Amador-El Dorado Unit. He recently got engaged to his wonderful fiancé, Haley, and they are proud new residents in Humboldt County. They enjoy hiking, camping, and going to the beach in their free time. Anthony feels very honored to become a part of this department and hopes for a lengthy career serving the citizens of Eureka and the greater Eureka area.

DISPATCHER APPRECIATION WEEK (APRIL 10-16)

Have you ever needed to call 911? If you have, were you confused why you were being asked so many questions? There's a reason we on the other end of the line ask very specific questions, to get help on the way as quickly as possible. Your local 911 dispatch center for the City of Eureka operates 24/7, 365 days a year and dispatches for Humboldt Bay Fire and Eureka Police Department.

We are a busy center and in 2021 answered a total number of 125,765 calls. Of those calls, 31,016 were 911 calls and 71,705 were business and administrative line calls.

All of the dispatchers for HBF are EMD certified. That means that we go through specific training through the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch. When you call 911 with a medical emergency we ask very specific questions to determine the extent of the medical emergency and to be able to provide life-saving instructions prior to fire and medical arriving on scene. It helps us to determine where to send help, gather information for the paramedics/fire department and if needed, provide birthing, choking and CPR instructions to assist you while help is on the way.

In September of 2020 California passed Assembly Bill 1945 officially making public safety dispatchers first responders. We are the "first" first responders and while not physically on scene, we are on the phone listening and obtaining critical information for the first responders that have been dispatched. We are proud to call ourselves this because when you call 911 and have a loved one of any age who is not breathing or in any type of medical emergency, we are able to provide life saving instructions over the phone, almost instantly, while we are also dispatching HBF and an ambulance.

I am fairly new to this profession. Growing up I was raised to do the right thing; if you see someone needs help, help them. When Covid-19 hit I took the opportunity to really find my true calling. I started volunteering for a local fire department in April of 2020 and became an EMT. While this helped me gain experience on the basics, I still felt the need for more, that my ability to stay calm in emergency situations could be put to more use. In September of 2021 I began my journey as a dispatcher trainee for HBF and EPD. I attended a 20-week training program and became a solo dispatcher in January of 2022.

We are more than a person who answers a phone. We are multi-taskers, often answering 911 calls and business lines, dispatching fire and police; sometimes all at the same time! We are the voice you hear on your worst day, we hear the pain in your voice, the crying, the screaming, the last breath of a stranger's loved one. We are the voice asking if everyone is out of a house on fire. We are the calm voice when an officer is in an emergency or the fire chief calls for an emergency evacuation of a building that firefighters are in.

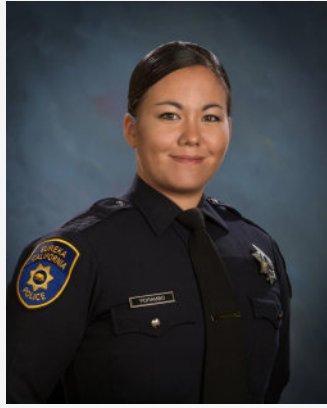
We miss holidays, birthdays, important events, time with our families. We sacrifice these things because we believe in and love what we do. We serve YOU, the residents of this city, our firefighters and our police officers. There is a reason dispatchers are called the thin gold line. We hold it all together, we are not seen, but heard.

Written by Dispatcher, Amanda Davis.

MEET OUR DISPATCHERS



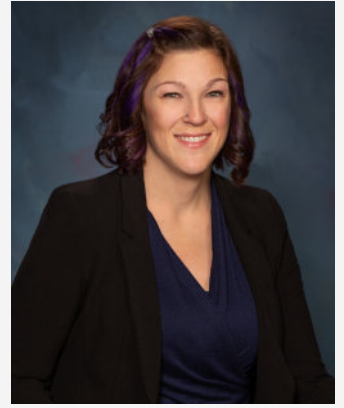
Brittany Wilson



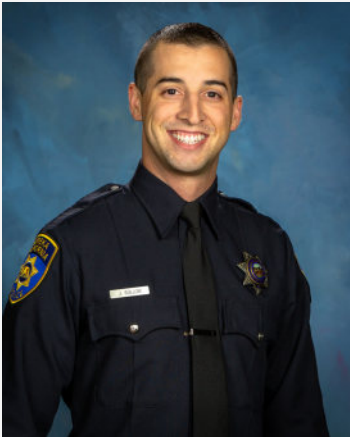
Young Bunke



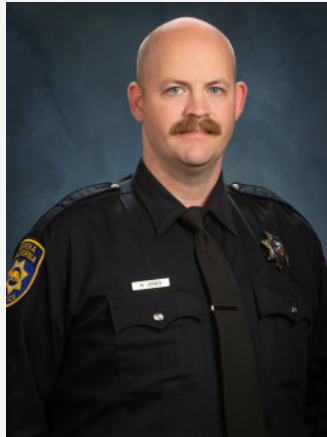
Kaitlin Burke



Amanda Davis



Jeremy Sollom



Nick Jones



Tyler Moore



Rachel Sollom



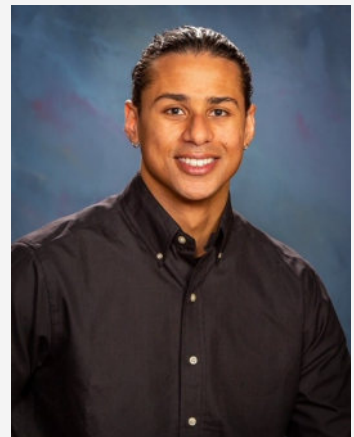
Jade Suits



Julie Trepanier



Kylie Nelson



Joshua Velette

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE

is recruiting career firefighters!



Applications are due on April 25, 2022 by 5:00p.m.

Start yours today at: <https://www.hbfire.org/positionopenings>.

To be considered eligible for this hiring and eligibility list, you must meet the following criteria:

- Pass the Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) Entry Level Firefighter Written Exam and be placed on the FCTC Statewide Eligibility List as of April 25, 2022
- Possess a current, valid Cal-JAC CPAT Card with an issue date between April 25, 2021 and April 25, 2022.
- Possess a valid California Firefighter 1 certificate.
- Possess a current, valid California or National Registry EMT-1 or Paramedic certification (note: persons possessing a National Registry Certification will be required to register as a California EMT-1 or Paramedic prior to appointment).
- Possess a valid California Class "C" Driver's License with a clean driving record.

Please visit www.FCTCOnline.org to register for upcoming exams and to learn more about the process.



ANNIVERSARIES & RETIREMENTS

Anniversaries

Volunteer Fire Support Greg Jernigan, 38 yrs (March)

Battalion Chief Tim Citro, 22 yrs (February)

Engineer Colin Beddow, 19 yrs (January)

Firefighter Jason Campillo, 19 yrs (January)

Captain Bret Banducci, 17 yrs (January)

Engineer Ray Marchi, 15 yrs (February)

Captain Brandon Johnson, 13 yrs (January)

Engineer Brett Christensen, 11 yrs (March)

Captain David Terry, 11 yrs (March)

Executive Secretary Jenna Harris, 8 yrs (February)

Engineer Adam Bumgardner, 6 yrs (February)

Engineer Kameron Waters, 6 yrs (February)

Engineer Mike Tyson, 6 yrs (February)

Engineer Lyndon Powell, 4yrs (January)

Firefighter Logan Bongio, 4 yrs (January)

Firefighter Brittany Borges 2 yr (January)

Firefighter Becca Ciszewski 2 yr (January)

Firefighter Mason Console 2 yr (January)

Firefighter Wyatt Esola 2 yr (January)

Firefighter Matt Parsons 2 yr (January)

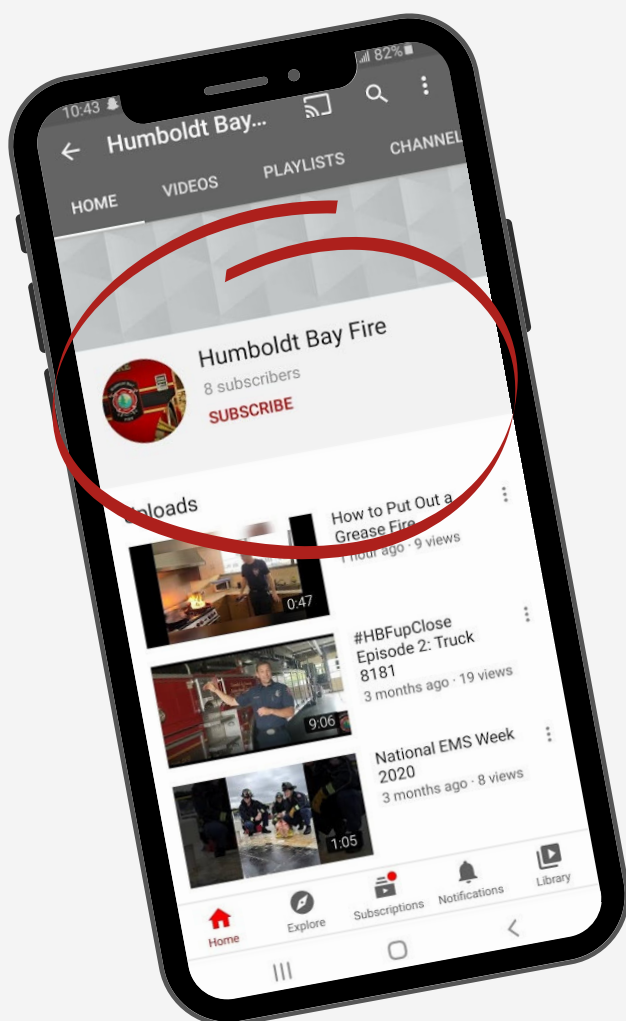
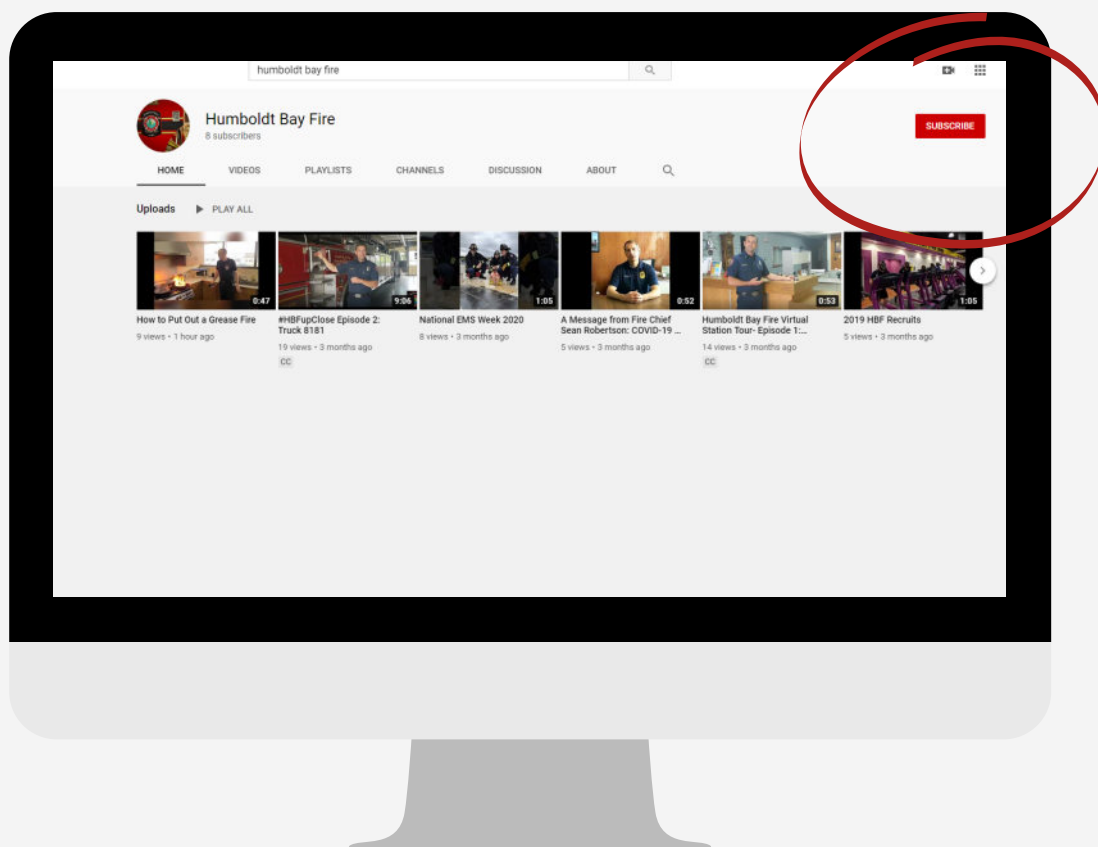
Firefighter Griffin Barnes, 1yr (February)

Firefighter James Sakkis, 1yr (February)

Firefighter Scott Gordinier, 1yr (February)



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