

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

FOURTH QUARTER (OCTOBER - DECEMBER) 2021



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FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2021 from Humboldt Bay Fire. It has been another busy and challenging quarter.

Cali the Fire Dog passed away in the early morning hours of November 23 on her bed at home surrounded by loved ones. Cali served Humboldt Bay Fire for 10 years, teaching countless schoolchildren about Fire Safety with her human Firefighter Yolla Montalbin. The firehouse became her second home, and she had a unique relationship with every firefighter she worked with over the years. We are so thankful for the love Cali gave to this community and all the love she got back. Cali will be dearly missed. As Firefighter Montalbin reminded me, we should not be sorrowful for her passing, but thankful for the time we got to share with Cali.



We have seen an increase in structure fires this quarter primarily due to heating systems and the change in weather. A significant fire occurred in a trailer parked at an RV park where a young child suffered smoke inhalation injuries, and unfortunately a pet dog succumbed to the smoke. Firefighters performed CPR using equipment acquired through a grant and per training provided by Firefighter Montalbin. The dog was rushed to Myrtle town Animal Center but was not able to be resuscitated, thank you for standing by and being willing and ready to save the dog's life! A reminder to keep combustibles away from heating vents, have your heating systems regularly maintained, and check those chimneys for buildup.

We continue to develop our COVID-19 response capabilities and became a State-certified testing center for Binax rapid and PCR tests to provide screening and diagnostic testing for our employees.

It was another very busy and devastating wildfire season that saw our crews out from July through September, providing station coverage to Trinidad and responding our water tender to a local incident in late September.

Engineer Jeff Broberg retired after a sterling 25-year career, starting at Eureka Fire Department. Jeff is the icon of the Engineer rank and will be a great loss to our organization. We can take some comfort in the fact that he has mentored and help develop all of our current Chiefs, Captains, Engineers, and Firefighters.

FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE CONT.

We are planning a Firefighter Academy starting January 3, 2022 for two new firefighters and look forward to their addition to our team.

Our Water Rescue Team members Adam Bumgardner and Hank Stoffers with CRR Specialist Amy Segui successfully applied for a State Parks Waterway grant and we are working on receiving a new Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB). This is an exciting resource for the Humboldt Bay waterways, and will expand our Water Rescue capabilities.

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, or a chimney fire in a chimney or 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!

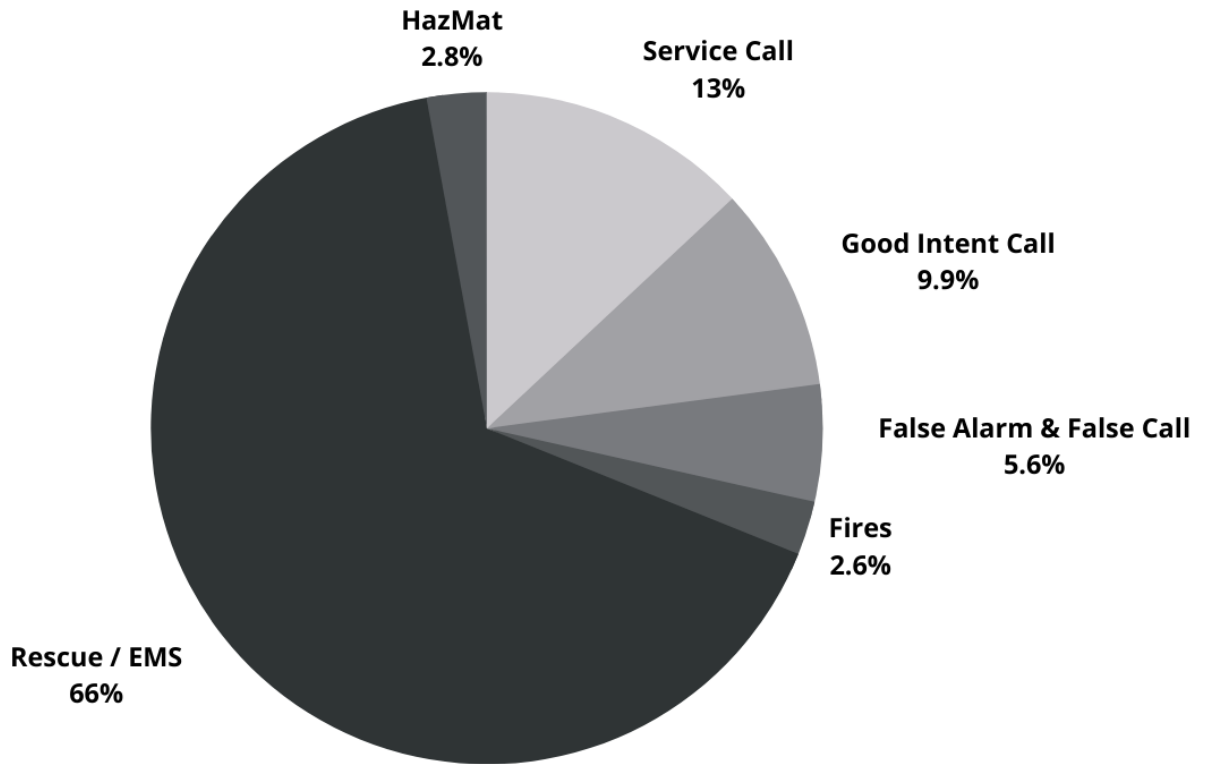
From our family to yours, we wish you a safe, bountiful, and successful 2022.

Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson
Fire Chief



2021 Q4 (OCTOBER - DECEMBER) INCIDENT STATISTICS



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fires	59	2.59%
Rescue / EMS	1,352	66.02%
HazMat	58	2.83%
Service Call	267	13.04%
Good Intent Call	202	9.86%
False Alarm	115	5.62%
Special Incident Type	1	0.05%
Total	2,048	100%

CALI THE FIRE DOG

It is with a very heavy heart that we announce that Cali died early in the morning on 11/23/2021, on her bed at home surrounded by her loved ones.

Cali came into our lives as an adorable rescue pup on the first day of summer in 2010. She quickly became a constant companion and adventure partner for my son, following him everywhere and never leaving his side.

Cali also became the Fire Dog. During her decade with the Fire Department, Cali taught countless school kids about Fire Safety. The firehouse became her second home and she had her own unique relationship with every firefighter she worked with over the years. We are so thankful for all the love she gave to our community and all the love she got back. Thank you for everything.

Cali always had kind eyes, a wet tongue and a wagging tail for everyone she met. She was my best friend. I am so honored to have as much time with her as I did and witness her life well-lived. I'll see you when I get there Cali girl... Your Fireman

Cali the Fire Dog 4/9/10-11/23/21

Dear Fire Dog Cali,
I really enjoyed your visit to our class. I really enjoyed touching you and when you showed us how to drop a ball you also did tricks for us. Thank you for coming to our class.



FIRE RESPONSES

COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE FIRE, 2000 BLOCK OF HARRISON



At 1:05a.m. on Thursday, October 21, the smell of smoke prompted a homeowner on the 2300 block of Hillside Drive to call 9-1-1.

Engine 8115 responded to the "Investigation of a Smell of Smoke" and descended Hillside Drive before spotting a smoke column stemming from a building off Harrison Avenue near Munson St and Hardy Dr.

As the crew arrived to the fire building they found dark smoke billowing from the eaves of the roof and an orange glow emanating from the glass door leading into the second floor.

The Captain of Engine 8115 quickly relayed the information and upgraded the call to a structure fire, prompting the dispatch of the Battalion Chief as well as Engine 8112, 8113, 8115, and Truck 8181.

Ready full story [here](#).



SHED FIRE, 20 BLOCK OF THIRD STREET

RV FIRE, 2600 6TH STREET

On 10/26/2021 @ 1022hrs, Humboldt Bay Fire was dispatched to a Recreational Vehicle on Fire with a 4-year-old child trapped at 2600 Sixth St in Eureka (Shoreline RV Park). 4 Engines and 1 Battalion Chief responded. Engine 8114 from Station 4, located at Myrtle Ave and West Ave reported black smoke visible from their station upon responding and arrived on scene first within 3 minutes of the call. E8114 reported a fully involved 30 ft. motor home. While preparing to enter the motor home to search for the reported trapped child, neighbors reported the child was already removed from the motor home by neighbors.

While extinguishing the fire a dog and cat were located inside the burning motor home and both animals were removed by Firefighters. The cat was uninjured and the dog was unresponsive. Firefighters on scene began CPR and administered oxygen to the dog.

Read the full story [here](#).



BOAT FIRE, EUREKA PUBLIC MARINA

On 10/26/2021 @ 2327hrs Humboldt Bay Fire responded to a Boat Fire/Explosion w/ multiple injuries @ #1 Marina Way at the Eureka Public Marina. 1 Battalion Chief, 1 Truck and 3 Engines responded. The first arriving unit reported a fully involved boat at the marina. 2 burn victims with serious injuries were also located at the entrance to the marina and were treated by HBF Paramedics and transported to SJH by City Ambulance.

The fire was controlled in 30 minutes and Firefighters remained on scene for approx. 3 hours to completely extinguish the fire and no other boats in the Marina were damaged. The boat was a 30ft sailboat and is a complete loss. Damage is estimated at \$50,000 and there were a total of 3 civilian injuries. All 3 injuries were burn injuries: the 2 treated on scene and transported to SJH and another serious burn injury that was transported to SJH prior to Humboldt Bay Fires' arrival. All 3 victims are being transferred to out of the area hospitals for treatment of their injuries. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Read the full story [here](#)



STRUCTURE FIRE, 1600 BLOCK OF D STREET

Around 6am on November 9th a fire broke out in a large, abandoned two-story Victorian structure on the 1600 block of D Street.

A Eureka Police Department Officer was first on scene. Battalion 8103 arrived shortly thereafter and found fire erupting from the rear of the structure, quickly upgrading the response to a second alarm and drawing in HBF's fifth engine and a mutual aid company to the scene.

The fire was initially declared an offensive fire and the first engine on scene began fire attack on the second floor. Due to deteriorating fire conditions, the engine company reported they were backing out of the structure and triggered a switch to a defensive fire operation.

Read the full story [here](#)



VEGETATION FIRE AT THE FOOT OF V ST

FIREFIGHTER IN FOCUS

*ACTING ENGINEER BRANDON
HARLANDER*

Hello, I'm Brandon Harlander and I am currently a Firefighter/Paramedic with Humboldt Bay Fire. I was born in Garberville and lived most of my life in Humboldt County. I grew up in the outdoors, hunting, fishing and spending most of my summers by the river. I got my first job working for my dad at 14. He was an auto mechanic; this is when I discovered I liked to work with my hands. I graduated from South Fork High School in 2000. After high school, I attended College of the Redwoods taking different classes, not really knowing what I wanted to do. During that time, I had gotten into the carpentry field and had my son at barely 21 years old.

In 2008 I was encouraged by my best friend and co-worker to volunteer at my local fire department. This was a little challenging for me because I had always given this friend a hard time when he would leave job sites to go on calls or we would affectionately call him an "ambulance chaser" when he would come back from a call. I soon joined Garberville Fire Protection District (GFPD) and Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue. My first month on GFPD we had two structure fires and a cardiac arrest that was a field save. I was hooked after these events and decided it was a career I wanted to pursue.

In 2009, I attended Humboldt Regional Occupational Program Firefighter 1 academy, shortly thereafter I went to College of the Redwoods EMT-B program. In 2011 I got hired as an EMT with City Ambulance of Eureka and in 2012 I became a Paramedic and worked there for nearly 6 years. In 2016 I was hired as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Humboldt Bay Fire. I am excited to start as a newly promoted Engineer with the organization.

In my free time I enjoy being with my family and dogs. I also like to spend as much time as I can outdoors, whether it be backpacking, hunting or just going to the beach. I am super fortunate to call Humboldt County 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 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.

This quarter we wanted to tell you about how much fun we had participating in our most impactful fund raiser: the annual Christmas Toy Drive. Two of our newest Union members, Scott and James, took on this project and distributed the toy barrels to all 5 fire stations and 12 local businesses. They also coordinated with local events and the mall to allow us to fundraise in conjunction with their businesses.

We always enjoy and appreciate the public support we get, with gifts brought to the fire stations as donations. This year we were also able to get back outside and do some local advertising at the Bay Shore Mall, Small Business Saturday and the Humboldt Artisans Craft and Music Festival at Redwood Acres.

In partnership with the Salvation Army, Humboldt Bay Fire was able to collect hundreds of new toys to help hundreds of economically challenged families in our local area have a good Christmas. In addition to these toys, Humboldt Bay Fire raised around \$6,000. Half of that was donated to the Salvation Army, and goes towards the purchasing of more gifts; often times for older kids. The other half was donated to Humboldt Resource Center for the "Santa for Seniors" program.



UNION SPOTLIGHT CONT.

Shout out to the 12 local businesses that participate in this Toy Drive with us by housing a collection bucket!

- B Styled Studio
- George Peterson Insurance
- Eureka City Hall
- Poletskis Appliances
- HealthSport
- Hunter, Hunter & Hunt
- Old Town Coffee & Chocolates
- Porter Street BBQ
- Spotlight Video
- Starbucks
- State Farm
- Los Bagels
- The Central Office Copy Center



Thank you for your support! This fund raiser would not be nearly as successful as it is without your support and participation!!!

Some of our other annual fund raisers that we have unfortunately had to cancel the past two years are the Bark in the Park Fun Run and the Perilous Plunge. We hope to bring these activities back as soon as it is safe, so stay tuned!

Thanks for reading and thanks for your continued support!



DISPATCHER IN FOCUS

MEET JOSHUA

My name is Joshua and I am the new Communications Dispatcher at the Eureka Police Department.

I was born in the Dominican Republic and grew up in Brooklyn, NY. I received my B.A. in Psychology from Bard College, after which, I relocated to Humboldt County and worked for several years as a Medical Assistant. I have also worked as a lifeguard and swim instructor in several local facilities. Some of my hobbies are swimming, weightlifting and running on the beach or in the redwoods with Bruno, my dog.

Having the utmost respect for public servants, I am looking forward to this new professional chapter and to serving my community in a more direct way as part of this department.



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AT HBF

We invite you to view our fun Holiday video [here](#).



On December 18th Santa was caught riding around Eureka with us



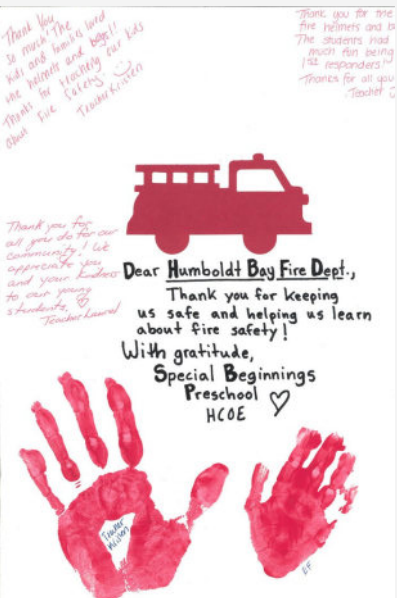
Halloween visitors on Engine 8114



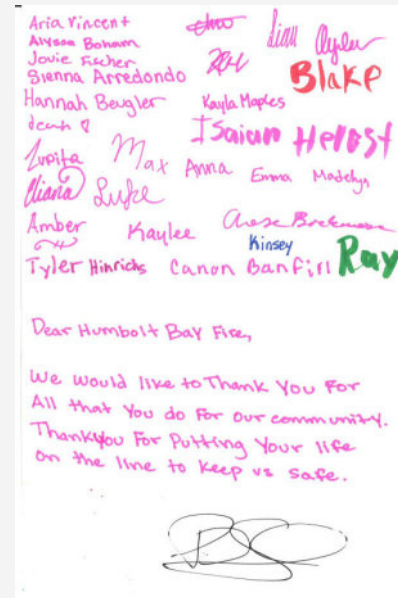
On October 29th we had the pleasure of escorting the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree for viewing in Old Town



On December 21st one of our crews joined in on the 8th annual "Shop with a Cop" for local kids.



A few Thank You cards we received from our local youth. Our crews appreciate the support!



STRIKE TEAM IN THE SNOW



On December 27th Humboldt Bay Fire received a request for our Type 3 engine to respond to assist with the large winter storm affecting Willow Creek. Given the snowy and difficult conditions the Type 3 engine was the best resource to help with having four wheel drive and short wheelbase. Engine 8136 responded with a crew of three firefighters and spent two days working the incident assisting with road clearing, searching for trapped/stranded residents, and other tasks assigned by incident command. This was a unique opportunity to help our Humboldt County neighbors as normally we see these areas for wildfires during the summer. Helping during a winter storm with snow was definitely a different experience for our crews but they proved up to the task and were able to provide a high level of service to the area.



WINTER SAFETY TIPS

BY CHRIS EMMONS

As we move in to the heart of Winter the single most important item to consider is being prepared. This will help keep you safe, warm, and cozy as it's blowing and raining outside.

With cold winter temperatures there is an increased use of fireplaces, wood stoves, space heaters, and other alternative heating methods. There are an increased number of fires and other emergencies caused by heating appliances due to more usage. The following tips can help you maintain a safe home this winter.

Install a carbon monoxide detector. Malfunctioning or improperly installed heating appliances can leak carbon monoxide gas, as can generators. Outdoor heating appliances should only be used outside. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and can quickly overwhelm you indoors. If you have to use a generator for power, only run it outdoors and away from windows and doors. Also, do not refuel generators while they are running.

Early in my career as an officer with Humboldt Bay Fire I had the unfortunate opportunity to respond to a multi-casualty incident at a single family residence involving an entire family who was suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. The call originated as a routine medical call but as the firefighters were treating the patient with the worst signs and symptoms, the firefighters began to develop headaches and dizziness. We removed all people from the residence to fresh air. We then monitored the atmosphere with our monitors and found that the carbon monoxide levels were several times higher than safe limits. Eight people in this family were transported and treated for varying levels of exposure to the gas. Upon further investigation, it was found that a brand new furnace had been installed improperly causing the carbon monoxide levels to elevate. As the temperatures dropped, the furnace was being used more and more until the levels began to affect the health of the occupants. If they had only had a carbon monoxide alarm, they could have avoided a very close call. An alarm would have sounded and indicated the levels were unsafe, most likely triggering the occupants to contact the fire department or Pacific Gas and Electric. Fortunately for the family, because they called for the medical aid, we were able to identify and eliminate this silent killer from their home.

To help avoid carbon monoxide poisoning and to aid in lowering heating bills, have your furnace inspected annually to ensure that it is in good working condition. Maintain a 3 foot separation between things that can burn and heating equipment, including checking floor heaters to make sure they are not covered by floor coverings or other combustibles. If you are using portable space heaters as a source of heat, install and use them according to the manufacturer's instructions. Extension cords shouldn't be used for an electric-powered space heater. Remember to keep young children away from heaters and stoves- especially when they are wearing pajamas or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.

Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Did you know?        **1 in every 7** home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths involves heating equipment.

As you stay cozy and warm this winter, stay fire smart!  Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year.**

 Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.

 U.S. Fire Administration |  Fire is Everyone's Fight |  NFPA

WINTER SAFETY CONT

Put a FREEZE on Winter Fires

Did you know? As you stay cozy and warm this winter, stay fire smart!

DEC JAN FEB
Half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February.

Plug only 1 heat-producing appliance (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.

3 feet
Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from any heat source.

U.S. Fire Administration | Fire is Everyone's Fight | NFPA

The Greater Eureka area has a higher rate of floor furnace fires than other areas of California as these types of heating appliances are more common here. The causes of floor furnace fires that we at Humboldt Bay Fire have responded to are due to combustibles being placed on or too close to the floor furnace. Many people believe that when the thermostat to the appliance is turned all the way down the appliance is off. This is incorrect. When the thermostat is all the way down, it is simply in the lowest temperature setting. Even if it's set low, colder temperatures at night can cause the furnace to come on. If there are area rugs or other materials over it or nearby, this can lead to a fire. Always keep combustibles at least three feet from the grate of the furnace.

If you have a fuel burning appliance, such as Kerosene, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide, and only use the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. Refueling should be done outside of the home. Kerosene heaters should never be filled while the heater while is operating or hot. Follow manufacturer's instructions.

In this area many people still utilize wood to heat their homes. If you have a wood stove, have the stove and flue inspected and cleaned annually. Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly with proper clearances. Always keep a screen in front of the fireplace opening and keep combustible materials away from the fireplace or stove. When starting a fire only use paper or kindling to start the fire and never use flammable liquids in the fireplace or stove. To avoid a buildup of creosote, use only dry, seasoned wood in a fireplace or wood stove. Artificial logs should not be used in wood stoves. When you clean your fireplace or woodstove, allow the ashes to cool before disposing of them in a metal container. Every year we encounter fires caused by ashes being disposed of in paper bags or plastic containers which will melt.

Additionally, here are a few more general safety tips. First, if you can avoid going out in inclement weather do so. However, if you must go out, plan for additional time to get there as the roads may be slick. If you encounter flooded roads, don't try to drive through the water. Vehicles can be swept away with just a few inches of flowing water. Higher water can also cause a vehicle to stall. Always remember to drive with your headlights on in poor weather to make your vehicle more visible.

On those windy days, limbs and debris may blow and can also make high profile vehicles more unstable or difficult to drive. Power lines, cable and phone lines may also come down in higher winds. Never approach a down line as it may be energized. Energized lines can look the same as de-energized lines.

If you have any questions about these safety tips, please give us a call at Humboldt Bay Fire at 441-4000 and we will be happy to help you prepare.

Save the Date



Humboldt Bay Fire

WILL BE OPENING RECRUITMENT FOR CAREER FIREFIGHTERS
IN THE BEGINNING OF 2022

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

More information can be found at www.HBFire.org under "Position Openings".

If you have any questions call 707-441-4000.



ANNIVERSARIES & RETIREMENTS

Anniversaries

Captain Michael Landry, 18 yrs (October)

Engineer Don Penn, 13 yrs (November)

Firefighter Kyle Brown, 8 yrs (October)

Acting Engineer Brandon Harlander, 5 yrs (December)

Firefighter Tyler Gillespie, 4 yrs (October)

Firefighter Traci Kroll, 3 yrs (October)

Firefighter Jorge Herrera , 3 yrs (October)

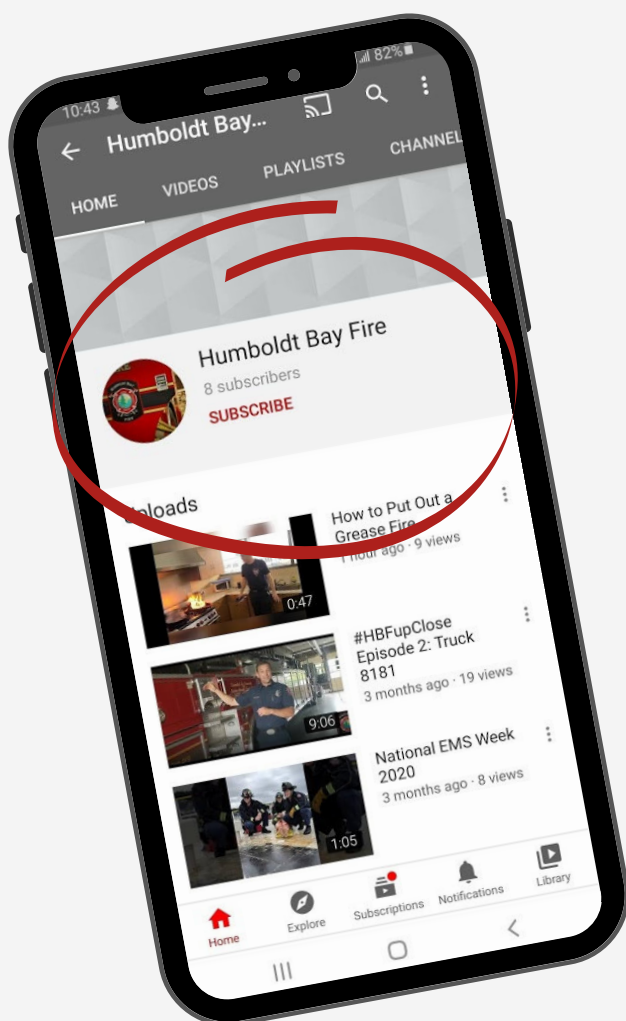
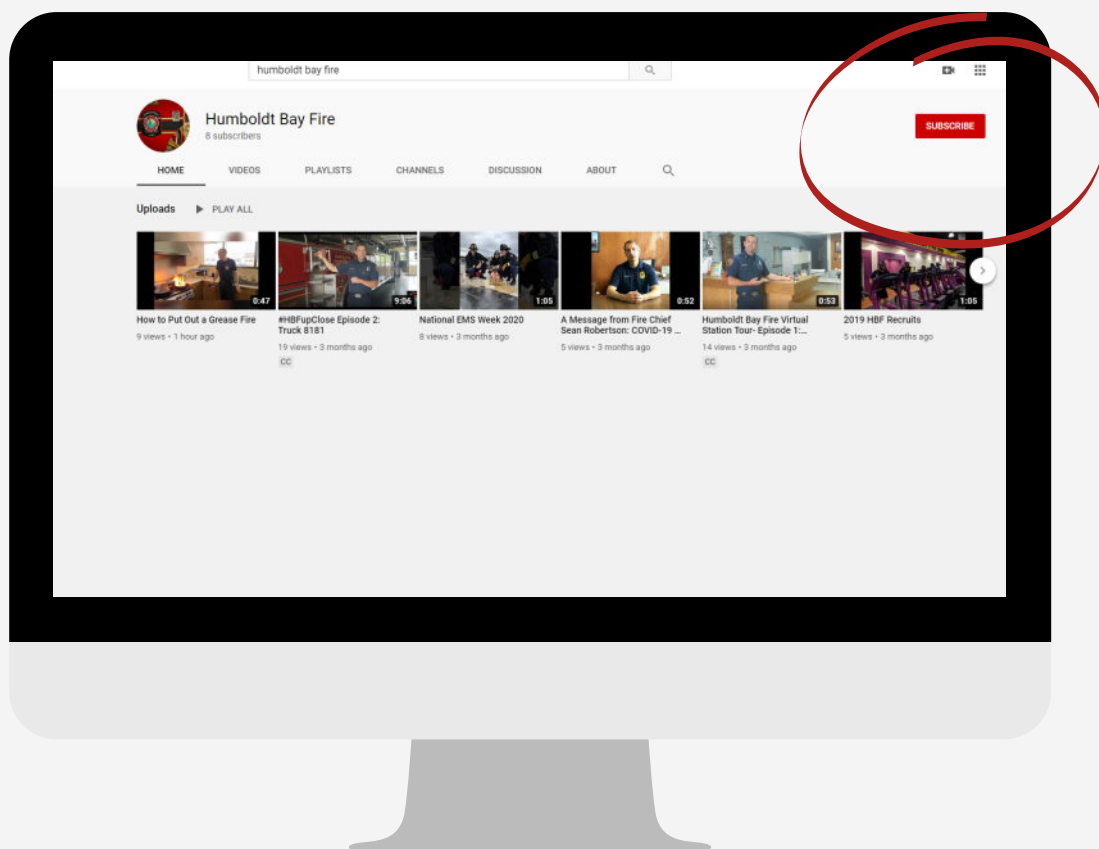
Firefighter Michael Porter, 3 Yrs (October)

Retirements

Engineer Jeff Broberg, 25 yrs, 8/30/1966-12/23/2021



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