



# HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

First Quarter (January - March) 2020

E-Newsletter

We fulfill our mission by living our core values: Professionalism, Respect, Image, Discipline & Efficiency

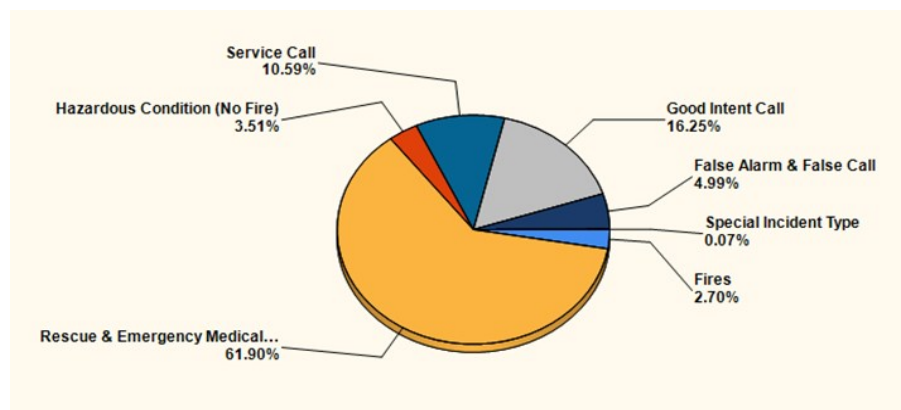
## Fire Chief's Message

### Fire Chief Sean Robertson



Welcome to the first quarter newsletter of 2020 from Humboldt Bay Fire!

It has been a 'firenado' of a first quarter, dominated at the time of writing by the Coronavirus pandemic! Calls for service this quarter totaled over 1,400 including several significant structure fires.



We began the year on a high note with a 6 person Firefighter Recruit academy, the largest class in many decades. With a dedicated Fire Academy Director all recruits

were successful over the 8 weeks. They became well-versed 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.

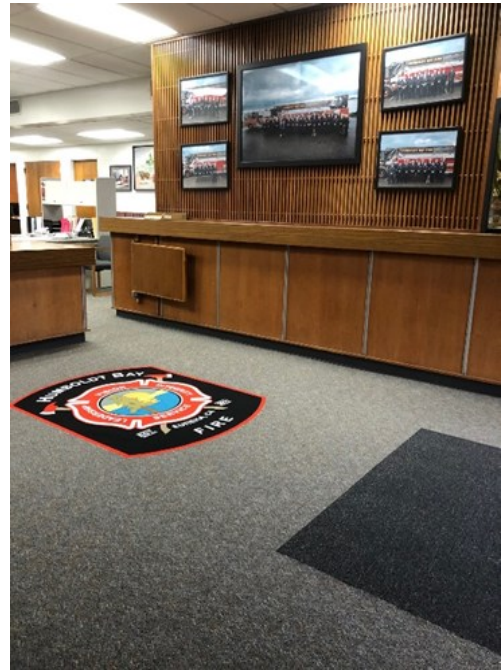
MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	40	2.70%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	918	61.90%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	52	3.51%
Service Call	157	10.59%
Good Intent Call	241	16.25%
False Alarm & False Call	74	4.99%
Special Incident Type	1	0.07%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1483</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

During the same period we conducted promotional testing for Engineer and Captain, and were very proud and happy to promote Engineer Waters, and Captains Johnson and Morris! New water rescue specialists were added to our team to increase our daily capacity.

After several decades of deferred fire station maintenance we were finally able to replace the 1982 carpet at Station 1, and repaint Stations 3 and 4 on Ocean and Myrtle Avenues respectively.



New Paint at Station 3!



Station 1 carpet!

A new incident command duty pickup was put in service, it will be the response vehicle for our shift Battalion Chief. This vehicle, replacing one totaled in a traffic collision two years ago, will increase the BC's response versatility and capability.



Finally, over the last two weeks Covid-19 has become our focus, as with everyone else in the world. HBF has cancelled all non-essential activities such as training classes and inspections, but we continue to maintain our high level of service. We have added additional safeguards, as recommended by the CDC and local North Coast EMS, to protect our firefighters and patients. Our dispatch center screens all calls for symptoms of Covid-19, and our firefighters will increase their personal protective equipment levels based on the call details and patient symptoms. All crews are sheltering in place per the County and State-wide order, and will only respond to emergency incidents. Please call 707-441-4000 to make an appointment for services that cannot be dealt with over the phone or via email.

The shelter in place order is certainly a difficult situation for everyone, but it is critical we all adhere to the order guidelines. Every person has a role to play. So much of protecting yourself and your family comes down to common sense:

- Stay at home, observe the shelter in place order as much as possible, and maintain social distancing if you must go out
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. If surfaces are dirty, clean them using detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your elbow.
- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Staying home and self-isolate for 14 days if you become sick with respiratory symptoms like fever and cough.
- Follow all guidance from public health officials.
- And please, please stay at home for us so we can stay at work for you!!

We will get through this together.

Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson

Fire Chief

# Firefighter in Focus

# Kameron Waters



Living in Humboldt my whole life, my heart is for this area and community. The youngest of four kids, I watched my family grow and adapt with a parent in the public eye. My father was a police officer for 30 years and while raising his children, he and my mom made many sacrifices to put our family first while still working hard to protect the town of Eureka. This mentality grounded hard into me and I carried it not only into sports and school but also when I became a youth pastor at 21. Although I had this passion to serve others, I knew I had more to offer and looked for a career to support that.

After meeting my wife Jammie in 2010, I was introduced to volunteer firefighting through Humboldt Fire District 1. I began as a volunteer in June of that year and my passion quickly grew. I knew after reporting to several structure fires and serving at public events that this was my calling. I joined Humboldt Bay Fire Department as a career firefighter in 2016 and recently promoted to Engineer in March. I have also served on the regional Hazmat team for a year and a half, with new trainings and experience every day. I now get to watch my children Aiden, Isabella and Reegan watch me as I serve my community just as I watched my dad and look forward to continue showing them all the great things our town has to offer! When not at the station, I enjoy walking in the redwoods, taking my dogs to the beach or barbecuing in my backyard with my family.

# Local 652 Union Spotlight

## Humboldt Bay Firefighters Local 652



### Six New Firefighters for Humboldt Bay Fire!

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 six new professional Humboldt Bay firefighters. This is the largest hiring in the history of the Humboldt Bay Fire Department. 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.

The minimum required qualifications for an entry-level firefighter are a State Fire Training Firefighter 1 standard (typically achieved through a fire academy at a junior college), Emergency Medical Technician 1, driver's license, and certified physical agility test. Applicants are also required to pass a background check and a mental and physical medical evaluation. Desirable qualifications for an entry level firefighter are professional, seasonal, or volunteer fire department experience, ambulance or medical experience, 2 or 4 year college degree, and Paramedic certification. After being hired the recruits go through a rigorous Humboldt Bay Fire in-house academy. In this 8 week academy they are trained in all Firefighter 1 skills, medical aid and traffic accident tasks, along with a large variety of other rescue and daily operational skills to become effective professional firefighters for our community.

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, abilities, and experience to be able to move into the next ranks. Moving from the role of 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.



Picture Description:

Badge Pinning of the 6 new firefighters along with the Academy Director Captain John Goodman. From left to right; Brittany Borges, Mason Console, Shane Elder, Academy Director Captain John Goodman, Wyatt Esola, Matthew Parsons, Rebecca Ciszewski.

Humboldt Bay Fire Department Professional Firefighters Union Local 652 wants to sincerely thank all of our families, our JPA, 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.

# Dispatcher in Focus

## Jennelle Crnich



Jennelle has been a dispatcher with the Eureka Police and Fire Department for almost 14 years. She comes from a local family and worked at her family business, Miller Farms Nursery, throughout high school. After spending a shift with her aunt who was a dispatcher with the Eureka Police and Fire Department, Jennelle knew serving her community and fellow first responders as a dispatcher was her calling. During her 14 years as a dispatcher, she was a part of many critical incidents involving both police and fire which lead her to another passion, peer support and

Yoga for First Responders. She holds many training certifications for both police and fire, and has 300 hours of Yoga training, including 70 hours of Yoga for First Responders Intensive Training. She has brought this tactical, science based approach to yoga back to our community and has taught several Yoga for First Responders classes to both police and fire personnel. She is extremely passionate about the well-being and safety of the community and first responders. For Jennelle, taking care of the community and those that serve the community is an honor and blessing.

Thank you for everything you do in and out of the dispatch center, Jennelle!





# Fallen Firefighter Memorial

In the 155 years that the City of Eureka has had an organized fire department, 6 firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty. All 6 of these names have been enshrined on the CA Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento. Unfortunately, we do not have anything honoring the ultimate sacrifice our brothers made within our own community.

A group of Humboldt Bay Firefighters has teamed up with the City of Eureka's Open Space, Parks & Recreation Commission to change that and raise funds for a permanent memorial to reside in Old Town Eureka at Clarke Plaza. This site has a distinct historical connection to the Fire Department due to the large fire that occurred here in 1959 that resulted in 7 firefighters being injured.

The memorial will consist of a bronze memorial that will sit atop a stone pedestal, a flag pole, 24-hour lighting, improved landscaping, and reflecting benches.

Fundraising efforts have largely been focused since August of 2019 and, up until our Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser, the majority had come from community donations at the Eureka Street Art Festival, Friday Night Markets, and the 9/11 Memorial 5K Run.

On March 6th we hosted the Spaghetti Feed Dinner & Silent Auction, bringing in \$11,000 for the cause thanks to incredible donations from our local businesses and community members.

On March 9th, we were honored to host the United States Honor Flag, the single American flag that travels the country to honor the heroes killed in the line of duty in law enforcement, fire, and the military. The Humboldt Bay Fire Honor Guard performed a Memorial Tap of the flag to officially dedicate the future site of the Memorial in Clarke Plaza.

Today, we have raised 50% of the funds needed for the project. We have started construction of the monument with local artist Todd Kruper, and hope to raise the remaining funds needed to break ground soon.

We still need donations to make this memorial a reality. [How to donate:](#)

Cash or Check (made out to Humboldt Bay Professional Firefighters Local 652) donations are accepted at Humboldt Bay Fire Station 1 at 533 C Street, Eureka. GoFundMe Page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/fallen-firefighters-memorial-eureka-ca>

HBF would like to thank the community for their continued support in honoring our fallen brothers.



# Earthquake Preparedness

**By Battalion Chief Chris Emmons**

The City of Eureka is in the heart of “Redwood Country”. It’s also in the heart of “Earthquake Country.” With multiple earthquake fault lines in our area we frequently experience small shakers, but it’s been several years since we have experienced a large earthquake that has caused significant damage. We are due. April is “Earthquake Preparedness Month”. Humboldt Bay Fire is reminding the community of how to prepare for a seismic event. Now is the time.

What is the first step of being prepared for an earthquake? We know that there will be another major earthquake at some point and the best thing to do is prepare with a plan. Having a plan will reduce stress during the event, help make you safer during the event, and hasten your recovery following an earthquake.

“The Plan” should include the following:

1. Make your home safe. Strap down items that can tip over, i.e. water heater, entertainment centers, bookshelves, and other large furnishings. Establish all the possible ways to exit your house and keep them clear.
2. At least a three day supply (week supply recommended) of food, water, clothes, medical supplies, and other necessary equipment for everyone in the family.
3. Decide where and when to reunite your family should you be apart when the earthquake happens.
4. Choose a contact outside the immediate area to contact if family members are separated. Long distance service will probably be restored sooner than local. Do not use the phone immediately following the earthquake.
5. Know the policies of the school or daycare center your children attend.

6. If you have a family member who does not speak English, prepare an emergency card written in English indicating that person's identification, address, and any special needs. Have them carry the card with them.
7. Conduct Earthquake: Drop, Cover, and Hold drills. Know the safest place in your home.
8. Locate shutoff valves for water, gas and electricity. Know how to shut them off.
9. Make copies of vital records and keep them in a safe deposit box. Make sure the originals are stored safely. Take photos/videos of your valuables. Keep extra cash and change. ATM's may not work.
10. Before a quake, have knowledge of where your local shelters and emergency medical centers are. Contact your local Red Cross Chapter and Office of Emergency Services to obtain this information. Know the locations of your nearest fire and police stations.

In the event of a major earthquake here in Humboldt County, we need to work together and be self-sufficient. We have a beautiful area that we live in but with that beauty comes seclusion. Emergency Services will be busy and may not be able to respond to your location right away due to infrastructure damage, lack of resources, or other emergencies. It's imperative that we work with our neighbors, have a plan and help each other.

For other information for emergency preparedness, please visit the following web sites:

<http://earthquake.usgs.gov/learn/preparedness.php>

<http://www.fema.gov/earthquake>

<http://www.redcross.org/prepare>

<http://www.shakeout.org/california/>

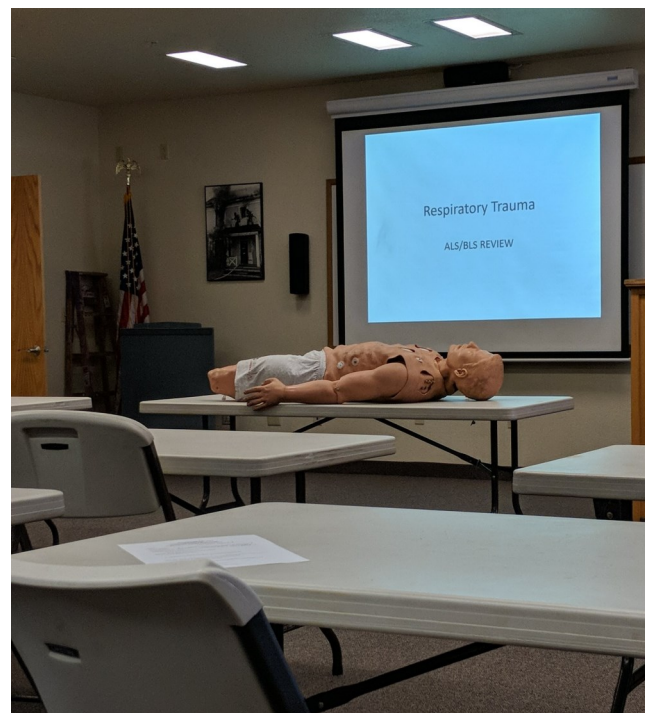
# CPR/ CPR & 1st Aid Classes

Humboldt Bay Fire is currently putting a pause on CPR and First Aid classes due to Covid-19 and the current shelter in place order. Please follow us on social media for updates on when we will return to scheduling these monthly classes.

We apologize for any inconvenience and we appreciate your understanding. If you are needing a CPR / CPR & First Aid Certification, we encourage you to look online! Here are a few courses you can take in the comfort and safety of your own home:

- American Safety Training Institute : <https://www.americansti.org/>
- American Red Cross: <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/online-safety-classes>

**MEDIC**   
 **First Aid**



# Anniversaries & Retirements

## Anniversaries

- Volunteer Fire Support Greg Jernigan, 36 yrs (March)
- Battalion Chief Tim Citro, 20 yrs (February)
- Engineer Colin Beddow, 17 yrs (January)
- Firefighter Jason Campillo, 17 yrs (January)
- Captain Bret Banducci, 15 yrs (January)
- Engineer Ray Marchi, 13 yrs (February)
- Engineer Brandon Johnson, 11 yrs (January)
- Engineer Brett Christensen, 9 yrs (March)
- Captain David Terry, 9 yrs (March)
- Engineer Adam Bumgardner, 4 yrs (February)
- Engineer Kameron Waters, 4 yrs (February)
- Engineer Mike Tyson, 4 yrs (February)
- Executive Secretary Jenna Harris, 6 yrs (February)



## Retirements

None

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