

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

THIRD QUARTER (JULY - SEPTEMBER) 2020



IN THIS ISSUE

FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE
THIRD QUARTER STATS
VOORHEES & BLEVINS RETIRE
MEMORIALS FOR BRANDT & HUBLER
NEVER FORGET 9/11
BURN SUSPENSION
FIRE ASSISTANCE
FIREFIGHTER IN FOCUS
UNION SPOTLIGHT
VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE
HALLOWEEN SAFETY
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
ANNIVERSARIES & RETIREMENTS



FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

WRITTEN BY FIRE CHIEF SEAN ROBERTSON

Welcome to the third quarter newsletter of 2020 from Humboldt Bay Fire. It seems like this year keeps delivering tremendous challenges, and Humboldt Bay Fire continues to meet them head-on.

The third quarter and last month particularly have brought yet another "worst fire season in California history," when we very fortunately have not seen many fatalities but have seen massive ravaged acreage and destroyed communities. For the first time in several years we saw the wildfires extend into Humboldt County and several communities, including the city of Garberville, threatened. With local Cal Fire resources deployed to the August Complex, Hopkins Fire, and other incidents, our wildland engine 8136 was covering Weott for much of August and September and only recently returned. We also deployed a Type 1 engine and Task Force Leaders to assist in holding the Hopkins Fire from jumping across the Eel River. Our crews performed great work in stopping forward progress and reducing the extensive evacuation notices in Southern Humboldt back to warnings within a few days. We also sent personnel to assist in the Humboldt County EOC that was established for the fire situation.

Unfortunately, it seems that we are far from finished with our deployment, and the threat from wildfire locally and throughout the state.

During the quarter we have had several structure fires in Eureka and assisting Arcata Fire, the most significant a fully engulfed apartment in a six-unit complex that displaced two families. Fortunately no-one was injured thanks to the quick notice given to the occupants, and notification of 911. Neighbors also assisted displaced residents with small children by providing blankets and shelter in their home.

On a positive note, we said farewell to two firefighters who retired in September healthy and smiling. We wish them well on their next journeys in life.

We received our two new engines which are being outfitted for front-line service sometime in October. They will be great additions to our fleet and replace two thirty year old engines. Both engines were paid for in 2019 by our parent agencies using HBF JPA Capital Reserve Funds. We look forward to the increased service our new engines will provide to our community.

Lastly, please be 'Ready For Wildfire' by following Cal Fire's recommendations to maintain adequate defensible space, use fire-resistant landscaping, and by hardening your home using fire-resistant building materials. Please follow this link for more information: <https://www.fire.ca.gov/Dspace>. Make an evacuation plan with your family so you can leave within a few minutes if necessary. While the risk of fast-moving wildfire is lower in parts of Humboldt County, and especially Eureka, the last several years have demonstrated we are in unprecedented times. Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson
Fire Chief

THIRD QUARTER STATS

Fires 90

Rescue & EMS 943

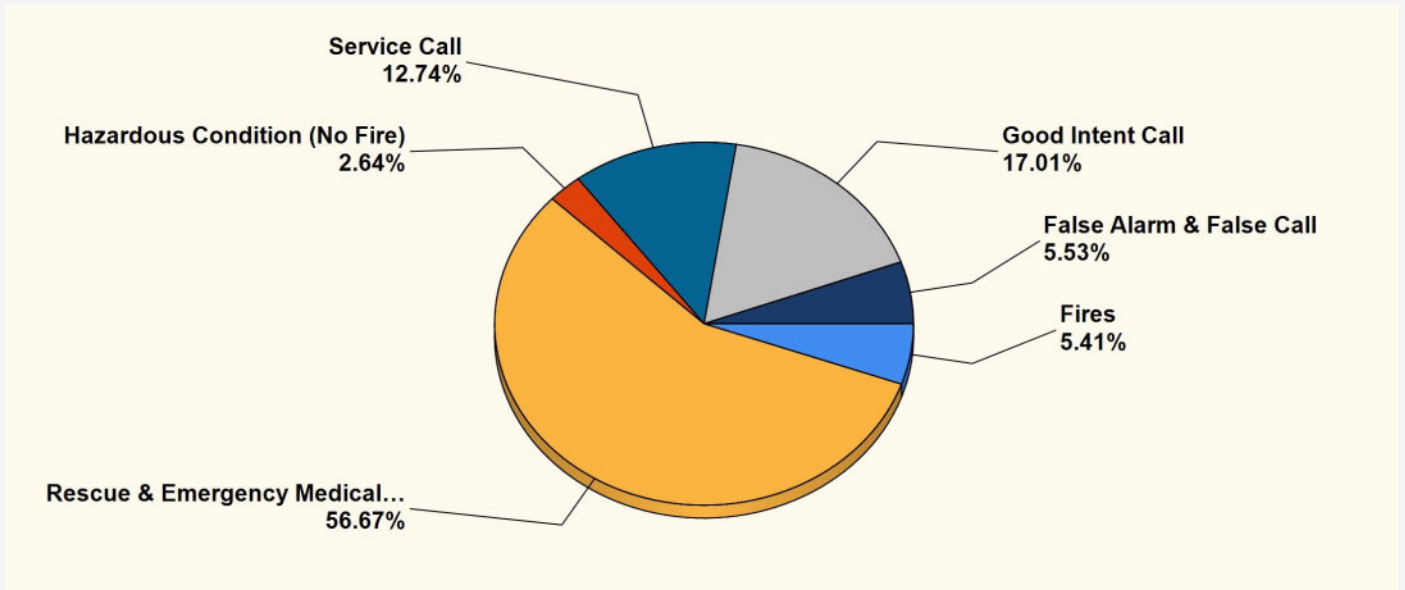
Hazardous Condition (no fire) 44

Service Call 212

Good Intent Call 283

False Alarm & False Call 92

Third Quarter Total 1664



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

ENGINEER KEVIN VOORHEES & FIREFIGHTER KINGSTON BLEVINS RETIRE.

Engineer Kevin Voorhees concluded his final shift at 8 a.m. on September 2, 2020. Engineer Voorhees has served the local community as a volunteer firefighter, career firefighter, and engineer for 27 years.

Firefighter Kingston Blevins retired September 10, 2020. Kingston started as a volunteer firefighter with Humboldt No. 1 Fire Protection District and was hired on May 1st 2013.



GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.

MEMORIALS FOR BRANDT & HUBLER

Denny Brandt passed away peacefully at his son's home on August 9, 2020. In 1962, at the urging of Vern Cooney, Denny took the Fire Department test for City of Eureka. On August 2 of that year he started his 42-year career as a firefighter. Denny retired in 2004 at the rank of Commander. He will be well-remembered as a very kind, compassionate, and caring person. A memorial service is planned at Station 1 in Eureka for April 2021 with full Honor Guard and Bell Ceremony.

On September 13, 2020 the HBF Honor Guard had the honor of participating in the memorial service for Tiny Hubler who served the Eureka Fire Department from 1966-1983 and continued to be active with the department following his retirement. Tiny will forever be remembered and missed for his big heart.



NEVER FORGET 9/11

HONORING THOSE WHO GAVE ALL ON 9/11/2001

Pictured here Captain Terry and Chief Robertson who climbed 110 stories the morning of 9.11.20 at our training facility. As they climbed, they carried the honor and memory of their 343 FDNY brothers who were lost in the line of duty 19 years ago.

Normally a group of HBF firefighters head down to Sacramento to do the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb with firefighters from all over the state. Each firefighter climbs 110 flights of stairs carrying a name of one of the fallen 343 firefighters. Due to COVID-19 that stair climb and our own 9/11 5k had to be canceled.



NO BURNING PLEASE.

BURN SUSPENSION STILL IN EFFECT

Humboldt Bay Fire would like to remind everyone that "Residential" burn permits have been suspended within its boundaries. This suspension is concurrent with the Cal Fire burn suspension effective June 25, 2020.

The suspension typically continues until sometime in October, depending on weather, wildfire and available fire suppression resources.

This burn suspension is subject to CAL FIRE regulation and is put in place to address the seasonal menace of wildfire and its potential to destroy life and property. The burning suspension will include all of the area within Humboldt Bay Fire's boundaries including areas within the Eureka city limits and Humboldt Fire District #1.

FIRE ASSISTANCE.

CALIFORNIA'S FIRE SEASON

Your Humboldt Bay Firefighters regularly assist on large fires and coverage needs across the state of California during the peak of fire season every year.

Our first and second crews aided in Monterey County assigned to the River Fire. Once they returned, Engine 8136 went on assignment covering Cal Fire Weott Station, and temporarily moving in to aid in the fight near the August Complex as well. Engine 8136 returned to Eureka on September 24, 2020.

On September 9, 2020 Eureka and the greater Eureka area woke up to a hazy orange sky as smoke and ash from surrounding fires made their way into our skies. That same day, Humboldt Bay Fire Engine 8117 set forth to protect lives and property in the Kettenpom/Zenia area from the Hopkins Fire, soon to be known as the August Complex West Zone. Engine 8117 and crew returned on September 21, 2020.



Additionally, HBF sent out a Battalion Chief and trainee to assist with the August Complex as Task Force Leaders. They returned on September 25, 2020.

Please continue to keep everyone battling the blazes in your thoughts as California fights through this devastating fire season.

**ENGINE 8136 WENT BACK OUT ON
ASSIGNMENT AS OF 9.28. 20**



FIREFIGHTER IN FOCUS

BATTALION CHIEF/PARAMEDIC TIM CITRO

My name is Timothy Citro and I moved to Humboldt County at the age of 18 from Healdsburg, California in 1991 to attend Humboldt State University as an incoming freshman. I was born in San Francisco and raised in Healdsburg since the age of 3. My interest in the fire service began in 1987 at the age of 14 when I joined the Healdsburg Fire Department as an Explorer. When I turned 18 I became a reserve Firefighter with the Healdsburg Fire Department and completed my EMT training as a senior in High School.

While attending Humboldt State University I was accepted into the Arcata Volunteer Fire Department in 1993 and made Humboldt County my permanent home. I graduated from Humboldt State University in 1995 with a BA in Geography and a Minor in Geology and began working at City Ambulance in Eureka as an EMT-1. During this time I attended the local Paramedic Program and continued to Volunteer in Arcata and work for City Ambulance. In 1999 I was hired by the Lake Almanor Peninsula Fire District as a Firefighter/Paramedic and exactly 1 year later I was hired as a Firefighter by the Humboldt Fire District #1 in 2000.

At Humboldt Fire District #1, I promoted through the ranks as a Firefighter, Engineer and Captain. I also continued to work part time for City Ambulance as a Paramedic. In 2011, I oversaw the upgrade from EMT to Paramedic level service for the Humboldt Fire District #1 and later that year the Humboldt Fire District #1 and Eureka Fire Department merged to become Humboldt Bay Fire. Following the merger I continued to work as a Fire Captain and improve the Paramedic level service for Humboldt Bay Fire and in 2018, I was promoted to Battalion Chief.

While off duty I enjoy spending time with my wife Lauri and my two daughters Molly and Allissa. I also enjoy playing golf, exploring the outdoors of Humboldt County and traveling.

UNION SPOTLIGHT

HUMBOLDT BAY FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 652

At Humboldt Bay Fire, we are committed to public safety that goes beyond response to emergency calls. We value anticipating possible hazards to the community we serve and working to creatively solve these needs.

One such identified need results from the fact that each year, about 400,000 children under the age of 15 are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for bicycle-related injuries. An additional 300 children are killed.

Humboldt Bay Fire aims to reduce these statistics in our community by initiating a new Helmet Safety Program. If a Humboldt Bay Fire engine or truck company sees a child not wearing a helmet while riding a scooter, bicycle, roller skates, or skateboard as California law requires, they will provide that child with a properly-fitted helmet and encourage them to recreate safely.



Humboldt Bay Professional Firefighters Union Local 652 is proud to have partnered with Pacific Outfitters, Revolution Bicycles and Adventure's Edge to provide these helmets free of cost to at-risk youth.

We are so grateful for our local business partners who have made this program a reality by committing to cost-sharing these helmets with us, especially during these times when the outdoor activity supply chain has been so impacted by COVID-19.

These types of contributions really highlight the value we place in not simply responding to emergencies, but helping to prevent them from happening in the first place.

So be like a firefighter, and wear your helmet!

#WEARHELMET #SHOPLOCAL



FIREFIGHTER'S ABC'S ONLINE INTERNSHIP

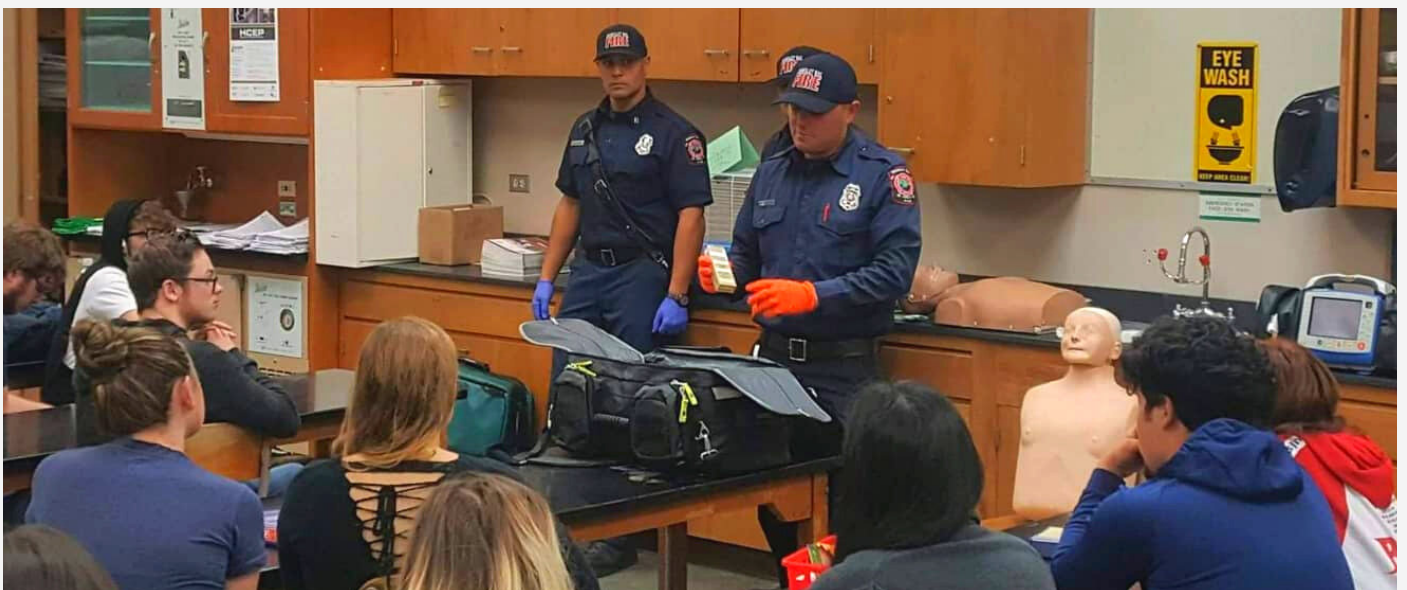
INTERESTED IN A CAREER AS A FIREFIGHTER, PARAMEDIC OR EMT?

If you are or if you know a high-school or post-high-school student who may benefit from more information about careers as a Firefighter, Paramedic, or EMT, please check out the Firefighter's ABC's Online Internship Program!

This opportunity is for all students of all genders, all GPA levels, and all levels of familiarity with the field. Check it out and SHARE!

Visit www.firefightersabcs.com look for the online internship program

Visit www.hbfire.org click the red button on the right!



JOIN US



HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE **VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE**

DAILY DURING FIRE PREVENTION WEEK (OCTOBER 5TH- 10TH)

VISIT [FACEBOOK.COM/HUMBOLDTBAYFIRE](https://www.facebook.com/HUMBOLDTBAYFIRE)
FOR MORE INFO

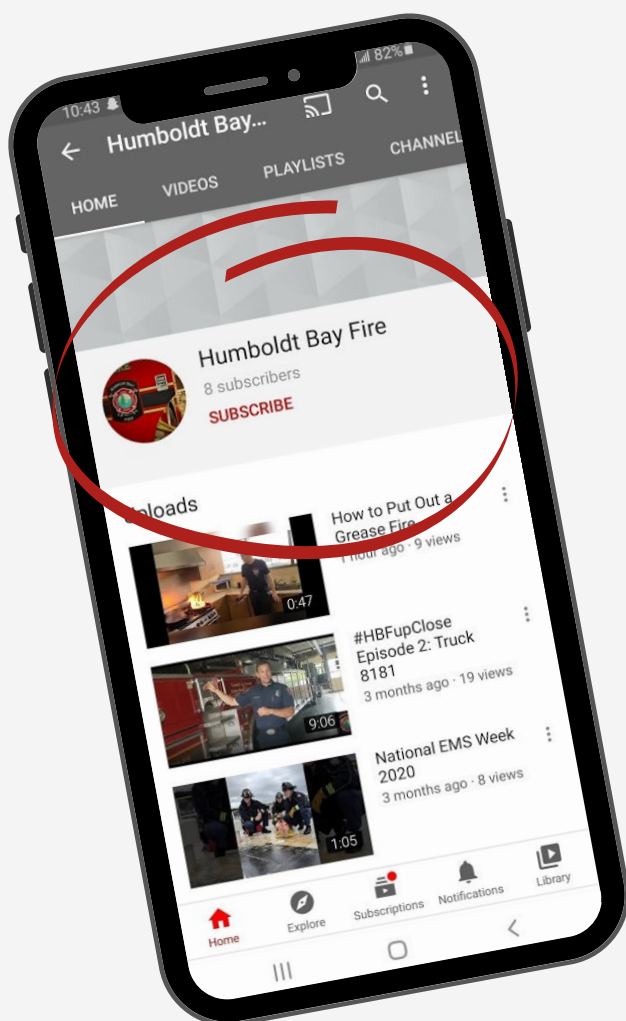
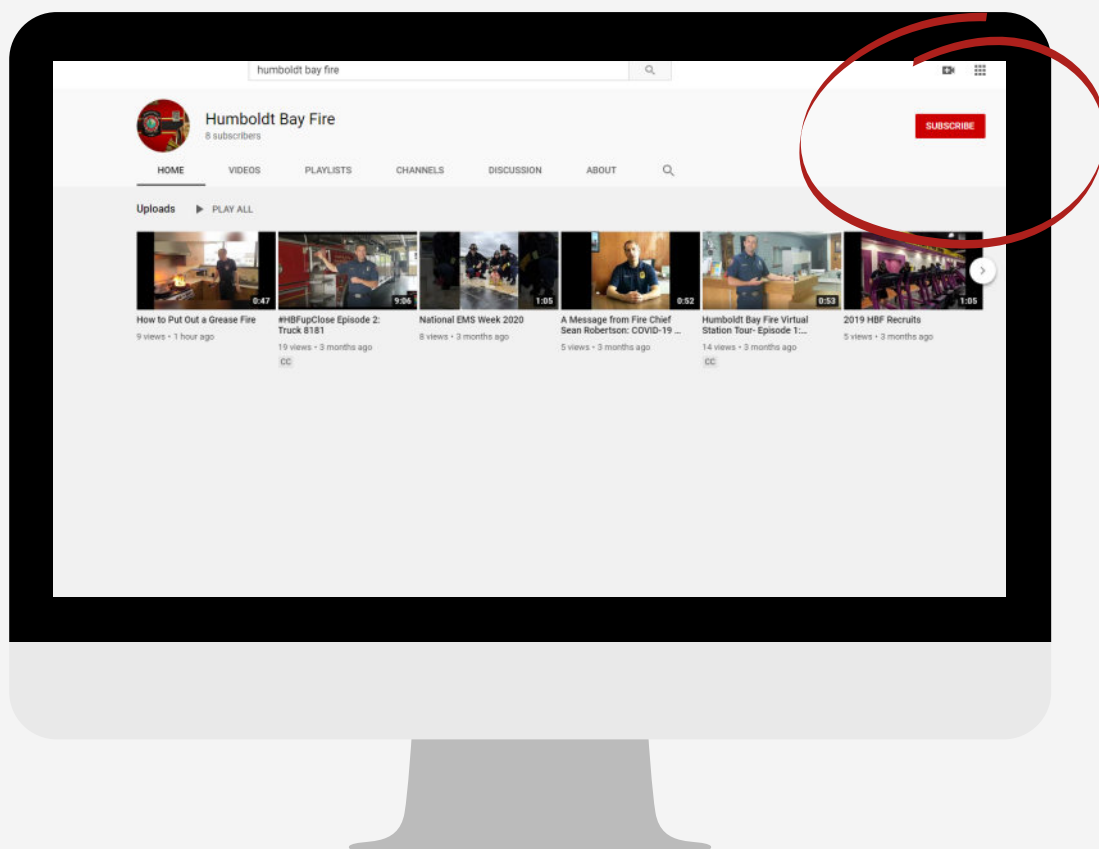
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HALLOWEEN SAFETY.

WRITTEN BY AMY CONLIN

Hi, this is Amy Conlin with Humboldt Bay Fire with a few safety tips for Halloween Safety. We realize that Halloween may look a little different this year due to COVID-19 safety restrictions.

Let's make it a safe and fun day by:

- Making sure decorations and costumes are fire retardant protected,
- Trick-or-treating (with COVID-19 safety precautions) while it's still light outside, in well-lit areas, and looking both ways for traffic before crossing the street.

- Wearing a costume that is easy to walk in, does

not impair your vision, and has light colors or reflective tape on it so drivers can see you.

- Always having an adult present with children.
- Waiting until you get home to sort and check your treats and NEVER eat unwrapped or homemade treats.
- Following safety guidelines related to COVID-19 including wearing a facial covering, maintaining physical distancing, avoid gatherings outside of your household unit, and frequently washing and sanitizing.



HAVE A HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!!



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS.

WRITTEN BY AMY CONLIN

This is your reminder to change your smoke detector batteries! We recommend changing your batteries along with your clocks, and Daylight savings ends at 2 a.m. on November 1st. So when you change your clocks, change your batteries! Smoke detectors save lives.

CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES 11.01.20



ANNIVERSARIES & RETIREMENTS

Anniversaries

Engineer Jeff Broberg, 24 yrs (August)

Fire Chief Sean Robertson, 22 yrs (August)

Captain Brooks Conner, 18 yrs (August)

Captain Chris Mitchell, 18 yrs (August)

Engineer Matt McFarland, 18 yrs (August)

Captain Kris Kalman, 11 yrs (September)

Engineer Arly Allen, 11 yrs (September)

Engineer Hank Stoffers. 11 yrs (September)

Administrative Assistant Ashleigh Benelisha, 5 yrs (July)

Retirements

Engineer Kevin Voorhees, 18 yrs

Firefighter Kingston Blevins, 7 yrs

