

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

SECOND QUARTER (APRIL - JUNE) 2021



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FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

As we really start into summer, and think about all the wonderful things we enjoy doing as COVID restrictions lessen, it has been a busy, exciting, and very memorable second quarter at Humboldt Bay Fire. Six search divers were officially sworn in as our first members of the HBF Search & Recovery Dive Team. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Brunner family, we are developing a volunteer dive team to create a county-wide resource. Thanks to our own Captain Terry for all his work in developing this concept and team.



We had a very moving and powerful dedication ceremony for our Fallen Firefighter Memorial on Clark Plaza, enshrining and honoring the lives of the six firefighters who have been lost in the line of duty during the 150 years of our existence as a fire agency. The Memorial was a great collaboration with the City of Eureka and HBF Honor Guard in developing the site.

We are now open to full services at all our facilities including CPR and First Aid classes, station tours, ride-alongs, and public education. Please stop by and visit! We recently hired a new Administrative Assistant Kacy Tonkin to replace our current Ashleigh Benelisha who is starting nursing school in the fall, and part-time Inspector Kemonte Cook to assist in our expanding Community Risk Reduction Division.

We are prepared for the upcoming wildland fire season and ready to respond to local incidents, provide local Cal Fire station coverage, or respond out of County to assist our State mutual aid partners. This is a real concern as our County and most of the State are in a significant drought, and temperatures are already in the three-digit range. Please stop by and discuss how best to prepare yourself, your family, and your residence for the potential wildfires whether you are ranging near or far this summer.

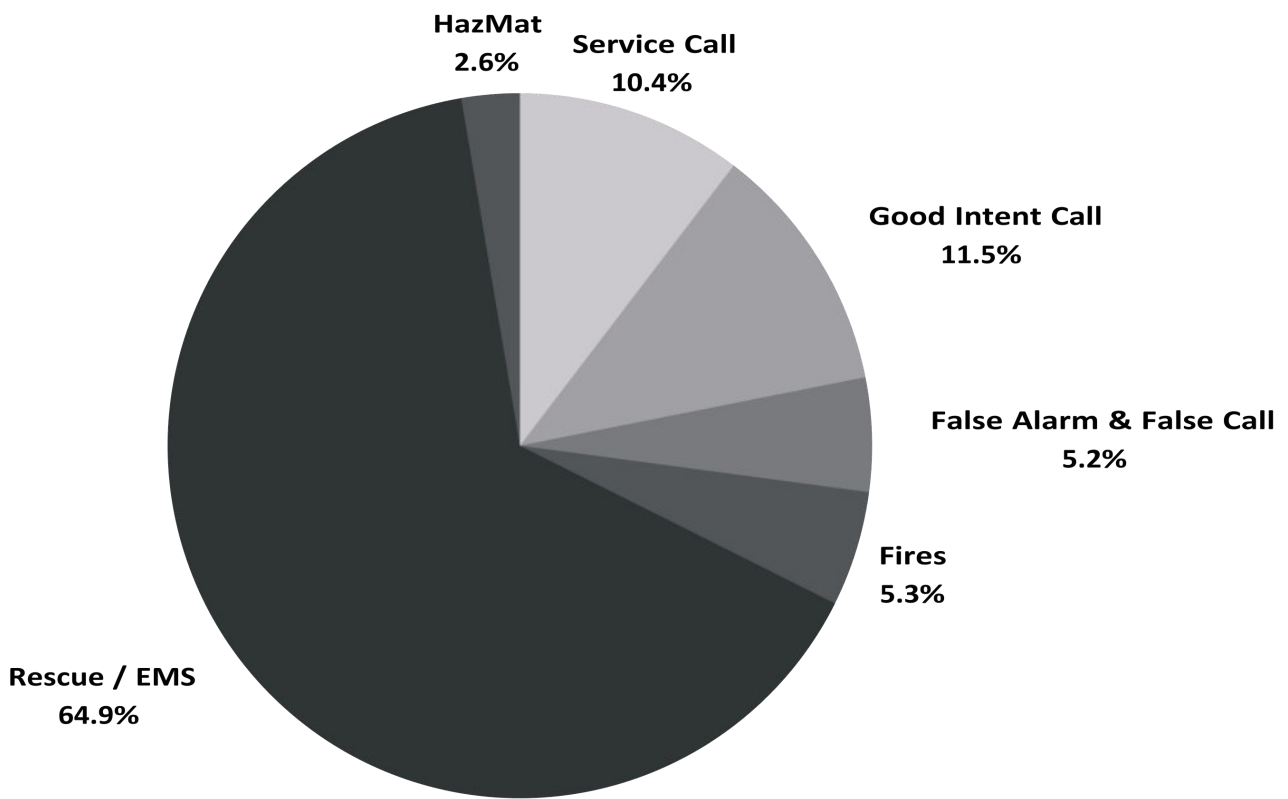
Wishing you all a safe, successful, and wonderful summer!

Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson, Fire Chief



2021 Q2 (APRIL - JUNE) INCIDENT STATISTICS



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fires	89	5.28%
Rescue / EMS	1,095	64.95%
HazMat	44	2.61%
Service Call	175	10.38%
Good Intent Call	194	11.51%
False Alarm	88	5.22%
Special Incident Type	1	0.06%
Total	1,686	100%

FIREFIGHTERS IN FOCUS

FIRE INSPECTOR

KEMONTE "TAY" COOK

I was born and raised in South-Central, Los Angeles. After graduating High School, I attended California State University-Northridge before moving to Eureka in 2009.

I attended College of the Redwoods briefly before entering the workforce. Since then I've worked in many fields including customer service, maintenance, and forestry, to name a few. Outside of my work with the fire department, I also co-own a small cleaning business together with my best-friend and wife of 5 ½ years, LeEtta.

Other interests of mine include: photography, aviation, travel, hiking, linguistics, research, history, psychology, and music. Although I have many interests, both business and pleasure, nothing is more important to me than the 3 F's: my faith, my family, and my friends.



I joined Humboldt Bay Fire in June, after a recommendation from Captain Jon Chambers. I am excited to serve my community through fire safety, prevention, and education. It's often said that people tend to see us (HBF) on their worst days, when our brave firefighters are rescuing them from burning buildings. It's my goal through fire prevention to mitigate that. How much better would it be that your experience with us is through a visit to one of our stations or community events.

We as a department are "Committed to community service through Leadership, Vision, and Integrity". Fire prevention is an integral part of us continuing that mission, and one I wish to uphold.

P.S. feel free to stop in and say hi or give a wave when you see me in the field.





FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL DEDICATION

WE HONOR YOU, AND WE WILL NEVER FORGET YOUR SACRIFICE

In the 155 years that the City of Eureka has had an organized fire department, six firefighters have lost their lives in the line of duty. All six of these names have been enshrined on the CA Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento and now, through the work of so many in this community banding together, all will be preserved here in the community in which they served.

The dedication took place Saturday, June 12, 2021 at 1:00p.m., the Fallen Firefighter Memorial is located in Clarke Plaza at 3rd and E Streets in Eureka, CA. Humboldt Bay Fire personnel, Honor Guard, and leadership along with representatives from the City and State, and family members of the Fallen were present to honor the sacrifices made by Leonard Nathan Winslow, George "Pudgy" Davis, Raymond Bernard Somma, Adolph Oss, Robert Brown "Smokey" McGillvray, and Kenneth James Voss.

The dedication of the Fallen Firefighter Memorial was humbling and powerful.

"Thank you" isn't enough to express our gratitude to everyone who donated time, labor, materials, talents, and finances to see this through.

All are welcome to observe the Fallen Firefighter Memorial. Learn about the fire of June 15, 1959 which served as the motivation for the site of the memorial and explore the display at the Clarke Historical Museum next door.

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 three 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, 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.


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.

Let's meet our new Firefighters!

Griffin Barnes was born in Ohio but moved out to California when he was 18 and never looked back. He enjoys photography and his pets (a cat and a turtle named Carlos) and if he ever starts showing you pictures of his pets, you can forget about the rest of your afternoon. Griffin is also a member of the Marine Reserve and enjoys the extra mandatory training and camping that he gets to do. Prior to getting hired with Humboldt Bay Fire, Griffin worked as a wildland firefighter in Montana and as a fire safety officer for a small private fire department in the Bay Area.

Scott Gordinier was born and raised in Newport Beach, CA. Growing up, he spent as much time as possible on the ocean, whether he was fishing with his dad, surfing or hanging out on the beach, he is always looking for an opportunity to get on the water. Scott moved to Humboldt County in 2009 to attend HSU. He currently lives in Westhaven with his wife, Kristen, their dog and 6 ducks. He still spends as much of his free time as he can fishing and surfing, only now in much colder, sharkier water. He is very excited to be a part of Humboldt Bay Fire and IAFF Local 652 and he looks forward to contributing to both entities in the future.

James Constantine Sakkis (Dimitrios Constantinos Sakkis) was born into a large Greek family in the East Bay Area. His hobbies include: rafting, rock climbing, camping, sailing and anything having to do with being on the water in the sunshine. He also enjoys volunteering with the Greek community at the Oakland Greek Festival where his family runs several food booths and in the kitchen at the Greek youth camp. James also enjoys Muay Thai that taught him to take a hit and hit back twice as hard. He also enjoys traveling as much as possible. James spent his 20's living in San Francisco where he attended San Francisco State University and studied Business and Marketing. After college he acquired a job in advertising and quickly realized that the 9-5 world was not for him. In 2010 he went back to school and got his EMT-B and attended the fire academy and became a SFFD intern and reserve Firefighter. In 2012 he was hired with Arcata Fire District as a career firefighter and is honored to serve Humboldt Bay Fire. On his off days he can be found riding the white water of the Trinity in his kayak or raft.



Picture Description: Badge pinning ceremony. Picture Left to Right: Griffin Barnes, Scott Gordinier and James Sakkis. All holding their hand-polished axes. Nice work guys!



CPR/ CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES

Humboldt Bay Fire is currently offering a hybrid model for CPR and First Aid classes due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. In this model of CPR, the student receives a link to complete the instructional training at their own pace, in the comfort of their own home! Once complete, a one on one visit is required to demonstrate the hands on skills.

We are hoping to bring back in person classes in August! Please call (707) 441-4000 to ask about scheduling.

DISPATCHER IN FOCUS

MEET KAITLIN!

Kaitlin started with Eureka Police/Humboldt Bay Fire Dispatch in June of 2019. Kaitlin was born in Santa Rosa and moved to Humboldt in 2005. In Kaitlin's two years on she has handled a variety of calls for service across the spectrum and does so wonderfully.

Kaitlin's favorite thing about dispatching is helping citizens on their bad days and being a voice or light to someone during a dark or hard time. Being a first responder often means spending long hours at work and while at times it can be hard, it also means building strong relationships with coworkers. Kaitlin is thankful for those who have become family and says this is the best job she has ever had!

Kaitlin spends her free time doing photography and spending time with her family including her 1-year old nephew. We are so grateful to have Kaitlin as part of our dispatch team and look forward to seeing where the rest of her dispatch career takes her!





DIVE SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

SWORN IN ON JUNE 3, 2021.

Humboldt County has been without a formal dive rescue team since the 1990's. Since then, many volunteer divers have used their time, equipment, and expertise to help fill that void, assuming their own risk and associated liability.

After the unfortunate death of 19-year-old kayaker Nicholas Brunner in Trinidad, CA in June of 2020, where volunteer divers found and returned Nicholas's body to his family, the recognition of need for a formal team became undeniably apparent. Nicholas's family reached out to the divers who recovered him and asked that any donations in Nicholas's name go toward the creation of a dive team for Humboldt County.

An informal group formed and began to develop a concept, initially fighting barriers of logistic and financial support. After finding a home in Humboldt Bay Fire and support from HBF Chief Sean Robertson and Humboldt State University, the team reached out to the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI), who have a nationally-recognized public safety diver training program. The dive team members will attend a NAUI training in August, honing their skills in areas such as searches, body recovery, evidence recovery and documentation, etc. as they relate to emergency calls for service.

The dive team will be supported by Humboldt Bay Fire as a special volunteer program, and be staffed by volunteer members who will use their personal equipment. The initial six volunteers are local, professional divers giving their time to provide this essential service for Humboldt County.

Humboldt Bay Fire hosted a swearing-in ceremony for the members of the Dive Team Thursday, June 3rd at 4pm. Members of the Dive Team will go through their remaining formal training in August with plans to be fully operational in Fall 2021.

Ongoing donations to the volunteer dive team can be made to: <https://gofund.me/e3493e13> or to Coast Central Account number 354141 "Humboldt Dive Team." Donations will be used to fund equipment and training for volunteer dive members.

GRILLING SAFETY

Fire in the grill under hot dogs and burgers is a welcome sight at the family cookout.

But fire anywhere else can make your summer kick-off barbecue memorable for all the wrong reasons. To keep you and your family safe while grilling, follow these general guidelines:

General grilling tips: Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors. The grill should be placed well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches (at least 10 feet). Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the grills and in trays below the grill. Never leave your grill unattended.

Before you use your propane grill: Check the major connection points between the gas (propane) tank hose and the regulator and cylinder, and where the hose connects to the burners. Tighten if loose. Check the gas (propane) tank hose for the potential (gas) leaks. To do that, apply a light soap and water solution to the hose using a brush or spray bottle. Turn the propane tank on. If there is a gas leak, the propane will release bubbles around the hose (big enough to see). If there are no bubbles, your grill is safe to use. If there are bubbles, turn off the tank and check connections, then have your grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the leak doesn't stop, call the fire department immediately.



When the grill is on: If you smell gas while cooking, turn off the gas tank and burners. If the leak stops immediately, get the grill serviced by a professional before using it again. If the smell continues, move away from the grill and call the fire department immediately. Do not move the grill. Charcoal grills: There are several ways to get charcoal ready to use. Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel. If you use a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire. Keep charcoal fluid out of the reach of children and away from heat sources. There are also electric charcoal starters, which do not use fire. Be sure to use an extension cord rated for outdoor use. When you are finished grilling, let the coals cool completely before disposing in a metal container. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Humboldt Bay Fire at (707) 441-4000. (Source NFPA 2016)



BURN SUSPENSION

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 July 1, 2021. 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.



ANNIVERSARIES & RETIREMENTS

Anniversaries

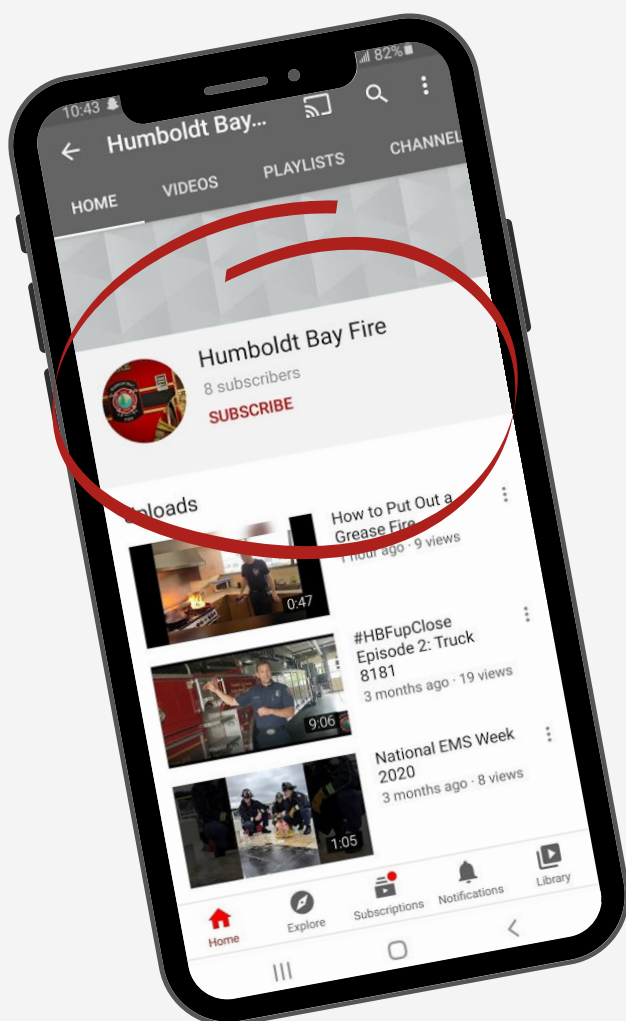
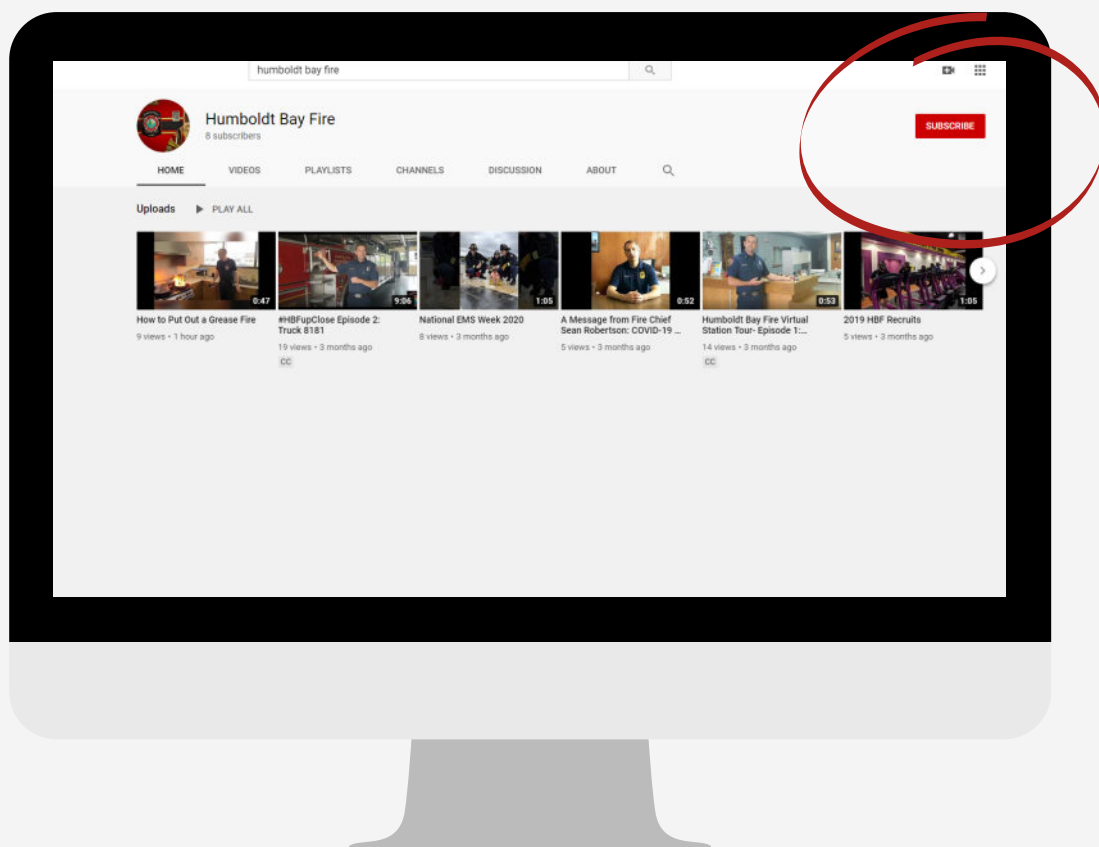
- Deputy Chief Bill Reynolds, 24 yrs (June)
- Captain Nathan Baxley, 16 yrs (June)
- Engineer Mitchell Mills, 16 yrs (June)
- Captain Ben Miller, 16 yrs (June)
- Battalion Chief Nick Launius, 15 yrs (May)
- Captain Trevor Morris, 15 yrs (May)
- Engineer Neil Butler, 15 yrs (May)
- Captain Russell Boham, 14 yrs (April)
- Captain Tony Freeman, 14 yrs (April)
- Engineer Kevin Stokes, 14 yrs (April)
- Firefighter Yolla Montalbin, 14 yrs (April)
- Captain Jon Chambers, 13 yrs (June)
- Captain John Goodman, 13 yrs (June)
- Battalion Chief Chris Emmons, 13 yrs (June)
- Captain Stefan Rheinschmidt, 12 yrs (April)
- Engineer Brett Egbert, 9 yrs (April)
- Engineer Matthew Dennis, 9 yrs (May)

Retirements

none



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