

# HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

SECOND QUARTER (APRIL - JUNE) 2022



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## FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Hello,

We started our second quarter with another firefighter academy after two recent separations with legendary Engineer Jeff Broberg retiring, and Captain Jon Chambers resigning. They will be very well remembered and greatly missed. Our two recruits, Dolan Dillon and Jared Hugh, went through a challenging eight-week academy with Director Engineer Don Penn guiding them through all the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to be a Humboldt Bay Firefighter!

Following the recruit firefighter academy, we held a long-delayed Promotional and Awards Ceremony. This ceremony recognized recent promotions going as far back as 2020:

Hank Stoffers promoted to Engineer

Lyndon Powell promoted to Engineer

Brandon Harlander promoted to Engineer

Tyler Gillespie promoted to Engineer

Matt Dennis promoted to Captain

Bret Christensen promoted to Interim Captain

Arly Allen promoted to Interim Captain

Our Awards recognized the 2019 and 2021 Firefighter of the Year, Citizen of the Year, Service Award, Lifesaving Award, and Medal of Valor.

2019 FFOY Captain John Goodman

2021 FFOY Captain Matt Dennis

2019 Citizen John's Used Cars & Wreckers

2021 Citizen Dr. Eric Gerdes

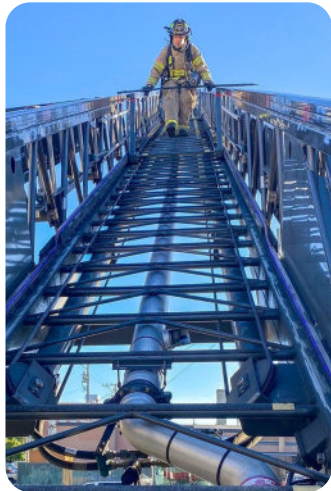
2019 Service Award Gene Bass

2021 Service Award Greg Jernigan

2019 Lifesaving Award Yolla Montalbin & Adam Bumgardner

2021 Lifesaving Award Mike Tyson, John Goodman, Brett Egbert, Logan Bongio

2019 Medal of Valor Stefan Rheinschmidt



The late rains we are receiving have created significant weed and vegetation growth in the Eureka area. Please ensure yards are well-maintained to minimize any fire danger later in the summer. We are working with the City of Eureka and County of Humboldt Code Enforcement Divisions to manage and mitigate weed abatement issues. Please give us a call for any questions.

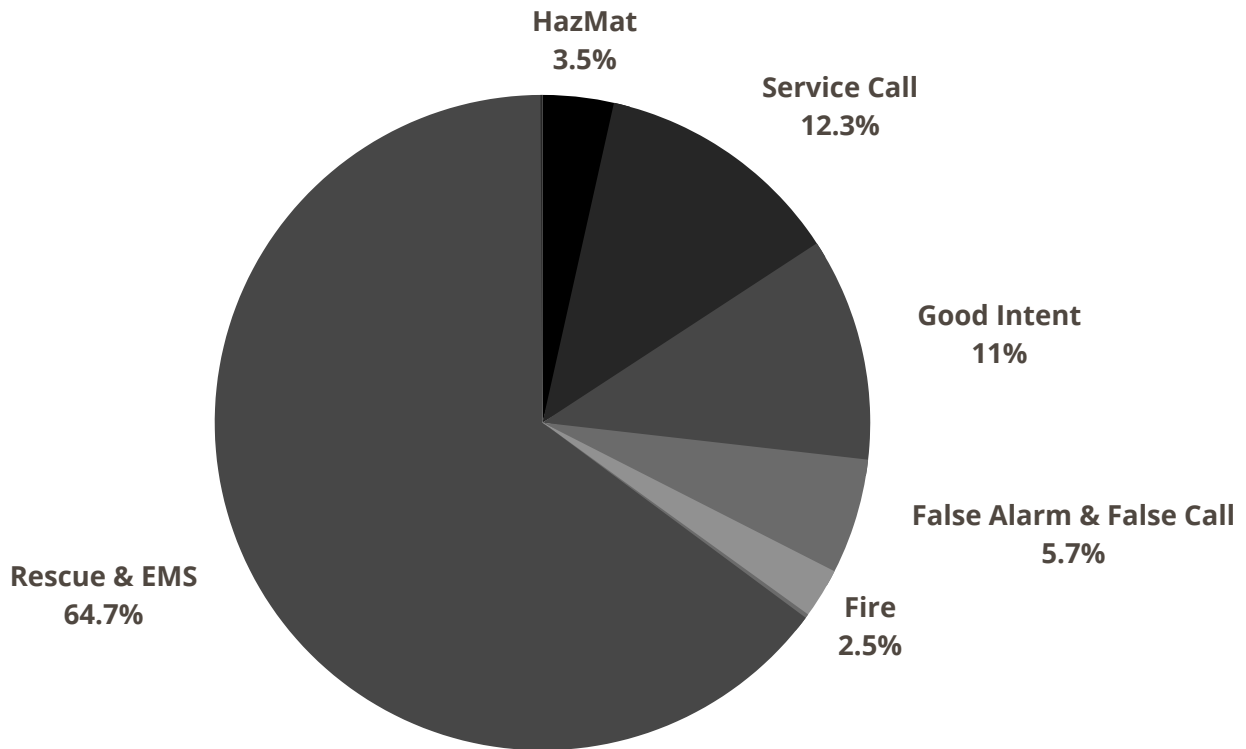
We are again prepared for the wildland fire season, and stand ready to respond to local incidents, provide local Cal Fire station coverage, or respond out of County to assist our state mutual aid partners. Wildfire is a real concern as our County and most of the State are in a significant drought, and 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

# 2022 Q2 (APRIL - JUNE) INCIDENT STATISTICS



Major Incident Type	# of Incidents	% of Total
Fires	47	2.46%
Rescue/EMS	1239	64.73%
HazMat	67	3.5%
Service Call	235	12.28%
Good Intent Call	211	11.02%
False Alarm	109	5.69%
Special Incident Type	6	0.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1914</b>	<b>100%</b>

# HBF IN THE COMMUNITY

You may or may not be surprised to learn how much of our jobs here at Humboldt Bay Fire involve interacting with our local community. From visiting elementary schools to teach about fire safety, fieldtrips at the fire stations, to being on standby during fun community events like the Perilous Plunge. We enjoy interacting with our local community, especially the eager to learn children we meet. You may even catch us pulling up to a car wash for our local organizations to make them work a little harder or attending a local high school career fair to educate those entering the workforce about a career at Humboldt Bay Fire. However you run into us out and about, we are always happy to meet the friendly faces of our community!



Truck 8181 along with our new recruits set up a booth at St. Bernard's Academy career fair.



Engine 8112 stopped by the EHS Cheer car wash to show some support and make them work extra hard.



Engine 8115 stopped by Little Learners Preschool to share some fire safety tips.



An enthusiastic visitor, Angelica, stopped by Station 1.



Engine 8115 and our CERT Team joined Washington Elementary's Community Service Day.



Garfield Elementary stopped by Station 1 for a tour.



The Truck crew on standby at the Perilous Plunge to ensure the plungers were safe.

# DEPARTMENT TRAINING

## Water Rescue Training

Our water rescue team did some training in the bay this quarter. This exercise depicted there was a vehicle submerged in the bay and rescuers had to swim out, assess the situation, search the vehicle and extricate the victims to land. HBF currently has 13 swimmers on our water rescue team.



## Helicopter Training

Our crews trained with the CalFire 102 Helicopter crew based out of Kneeland, and focused on support operations for a helivac if air transport is needed on a medical emergency, rescue or other incident. HBF trains with CalFire annually, as well as many other fire agencies around the County. CalFire is a valuable and important mutual aid emergency services partner.



# RECRUIT ACADEMY

We had 2 new recruits begin with us in April and graduate their academy on June 3, 2022. Congratulations to Dolan Dillon and Jared Hugh.

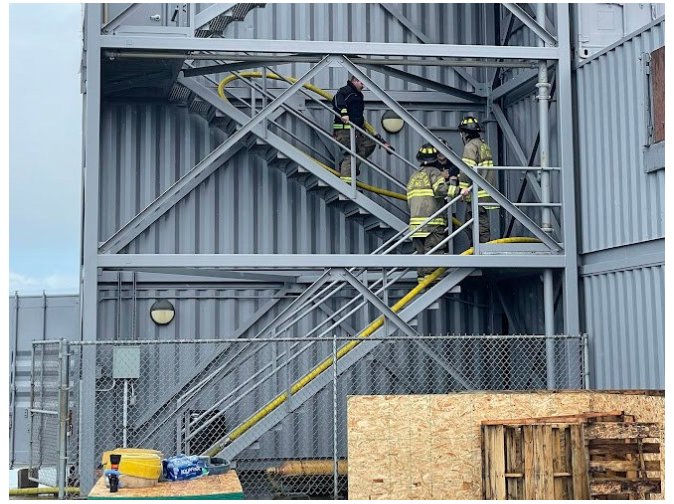
Starting with the hiring process recruit firefighters must possess basic knowledge, skills, and abilities as an EMT-1 and State Certified Firefighter 1.

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: dragging 2.5 inch charged hose-line up our 6-story training tower.

1 50ft stick of charged 2.5in hose weighs 129lbs, the gear and hosepack they're wearing weighs about 75lbs and on air, their lung capacity is reduced to around 80% as the on-demand system requires effort to breath.



Above: Hazmat training practice in Level A suits and gross decon.

Below: The recruits ladder and hose training.

To the left: Recruits training in the burn box.



# BADGE PINNING, JUNE 3, 2022

On Friday, June 3, 2022 Humboldt Bay Fire held a Badge Pinning and Awards Ceremony to finally recognize all of our 2019 and 2021 award winners. We would like to extend a congratulations to the following people:

- Dolan Dillon and Jared Hugh for completing their recruit academy and graduating into probationary status.
- Matthew Dennis for his promotion to Captain.
- Matthew Parsons for completing his training and becoming accredited as a paramedic.
- And to all of our 2019 and 2021 award winners:
  - The Citizen's Awards go to John's Used Cars and Wreckers / Rick Fox (2019) and Dr. Eric Gerdes (2021).
  - The Service Awards go to Gene Bass (2019) and Greg Jernigan (2021).
  - The Firefighter of the Year Awards go to John Goodman (2019) and Matt Dennis (2021).
  - The Life-Saving Awards go to Yolla Montalbin & Adam Bumgardner, Mike Tyson, John Goodman, Logan Bongio and Brett Egbert.
  - And the Medal of Honor award goes to Stefan Rheinschmidt.



Captain Dennis



Captain Dennis, Firefighter Hugh & Firefighter Dillon



Captain Goodman & Firefighter Bongio



Firefighter of the year Goodman & Dennis



Engineer Bumgardner

# 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.

Let's meet our new Firefighters!





Picture Description: Jared Hugh and Dolan Dillon perform vertical ventilation training on Humboldt Bay Fire's ventilation prop at Kemp Training Center. Keep up the hard work guys!

Dolan grew up in Southern Humboldt County until he left for college. Upon graduating he moved back home and began volunteering at Redway Volunteer Fire Department. While volunteering he fell in love with the fire service and wanted to learn more so he took the EMT class at College of the Redwoods. After the EMT class he spent a couple more years volunteering at Redway until he decided to get his Firefighter 1 certification from College of the Siskiyous. While attending the academy he was a live-in firefighter at Lake Shastina Fire Department, where he volunteered in exchange for rent. After finishing his academy, he got a job with CAL FIRE in the Santa Clara Unit. He spent most of 2021 on the unit's hand crew until the season ended. Once the season was over he was contacted by HBF to begin backgrounds and is excited to be a part of the HBF family. Dolan enjoys outdoor activities and participating in eating challenges.

Jared was born and raised in Fortuna. He grew up camping, fishing, and playing lots of sports. After graduating from Fortuna High in 2016 he moved on to College of the Redwoods to study Kinesiology and work towards his associates degree. In the Spring of 2019 he left to attend Butte Fire academy. Shortly after graduation he got picked up as a seasonal firefighter at Marin County Fire where he spent 3 seasons assigned both on the handcrew and the engines. During Jared's free time he enjoys running, hunting, and spending time with friends and family. He is excited to continue his career in the fire service and start this next chapter in his life here at Humboldt Bay Fire.

# DISPATCHER IN FOCUS

Julie Gerard



Eureka Police and Humboldt Bay Fire Communications Center is proud to announce the promotion of Julie Gerard to Senior Communications Dispatcher. Julie has been a Communications Dispatcher with the Department for over 8 years. Julie is also a Communications Training Officer and is dedicated to training and mentoring the next generation of dispatchers. Julie has taken on numerous projects the last several years and is always willing to help out and expand your knowledge and helps others succeed. There have been numerous challenges the last several years and Julie has met all of them with grace and composure and will make a great leader in the center. In Julie's free time, she enjoys traveling and camping with her husband and perfecting her ramen recipe. Congratulations Julie and look forward to seeing all you will do as a leader for the Department and Center.

# SAFETY TOPICS

We recognized Wildfire Preparedness Week May 1-7 and would like to share these wildfire prevention and defensible space tips.

Fire season is upon us. Help keep Humboldt safe and out of the headlines. Prepare for a wildfire now by maintaining your lawn and removing combustible debris from around your home. Take care when using lawn mowers that may create sparks, especially as the temperatures increase and grasses begin to dry.

Creating defensible space is essential to improve your home's chance of surviving a wildfire. It's the buffer you create between a building on your property and the grass, trees, shrubs or any wildland area that surround it. This space is needed to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it protects your home from catching fire – either from direct flame contact or radiant heat. Defensible space is also important for the protection of the firefighters defending your home. Here are tips to create defensible space.

- Remove all dead plants, grass and weeds (vegetation).
- Remove dead or dry leaves and pine needles from your yard, roof and rain gutters.
- Trim trees regularly to keep branches a minimum of 10 feet from other trees.
- Remove branches that hang over your roof and keep dead branches 10 feet away from your chimney.
- Relocate wood piles at least 30 feet from structures.
- Remove or prune flammable plants and shrubs near windows.
- Remove vegetation and items that could catch fire from around and under decks.
- Create a separation between trees, shrubs and items that could catch fire, such as patio furniture, wood piles, swing sets, etc.
- Remove all tree branches at least 6 feet from the ground. Allow extra vertical space between shrubs and trees. Lack of vertical space can allow a fire to move from the ground to the brush to the tree tops like a ladder.

Preparation is the best protection! For more tips on how to be fire safe, visit <https://www.readyforwildfire.org/>



We recognized Home Fire Sprinkler Week May 15-21.

Did you know what all new residential construction in California is required to come equipped with home fire sprinklers as of January 1, 2011? This is because home fire sprinklers are considered an essential safety measure to protecting homes and people, especially in our wildfire-prone Golden State.

Death rates are 83% lower in homes with fire sprinkler systems. If your home is not equipped, we encourage you to look into a home retrofit to help protect what matters most.

In a fire, only the sprinkler closest to the fire activates from the heat, which helps to control and often extinguish the flames. It's not like in the movies where every sprinkler head pops off at once! When sprinklers are present, fire is kept to the room of origin 96% of the time. In most home fires, only one or two sprinklers will control the blaze. In fires in unsprinklered homes, the toxic smoke spreads widely and more area is exposed to heat, smoke and fire. This requires more water to be used for suppression with powerful fire department hoses. This greatly increases water and fire damages to the structure and contents.

For more information, visit <https://homefiresprinkler.org/>



5/20/22 ✓

Dear Humboldt Bay Fire Department

Thank you for teaching us things. I Love you guys, you are The Best, your funny too. ↓

Sincerely, Riley Confield



Dear firefighters,

Thank you for saving lives from fires and saving houses from fires.

Love, Riley Longleigh

Dear Humboldt Bay Fire,

I liked that you played the sirens for us. They were really loud but it was still fun to hear. Thank you so much for coming to our school and taking time out of your busy schedule to tell us about your job. You are very important to our community because if there was a fire and you were not there it would not stop it would spread and burn down more than it needs to. I learned that there are special fire suits for special jobs. Thank you again for coming to our school and showing us all about your truck.

-Kate Burger



Dear Humboldt Bay Fire Department

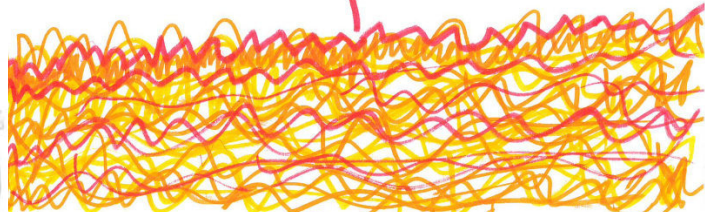
Your truck is

very cool

Thank you for showing us

what to do if something bad happens

Sincerely,



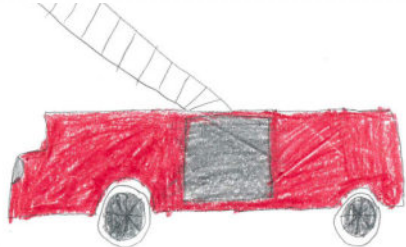
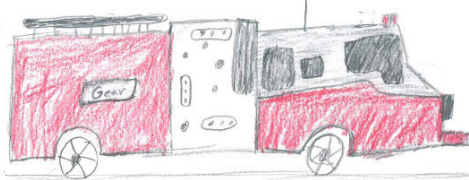
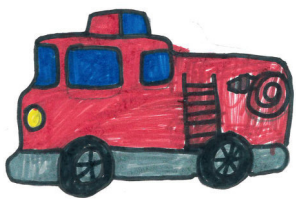
Thank you for having us at your fire station love Sylvia

Thank you firefighters!



Thank you for putting out fires I bet it saves a lot of lives. Thank you for everything. Love, ZJM

Dear Humboldt bay fire department, my name is Julian Jones. I liked the giant tools you showed us because they looked like big robot arms which were cool. Thank you for coming to the school to show us the hard work you do in your job. When I was in kindergarten I saw a firetruck before but I got to learn more information about fire trucks when you came to school. Thank you for telling us kids that important information about fire trucks. You are very important to our community because you help save people and put out fires so that really helps our community. I learned that it is very important to help people in need of help.





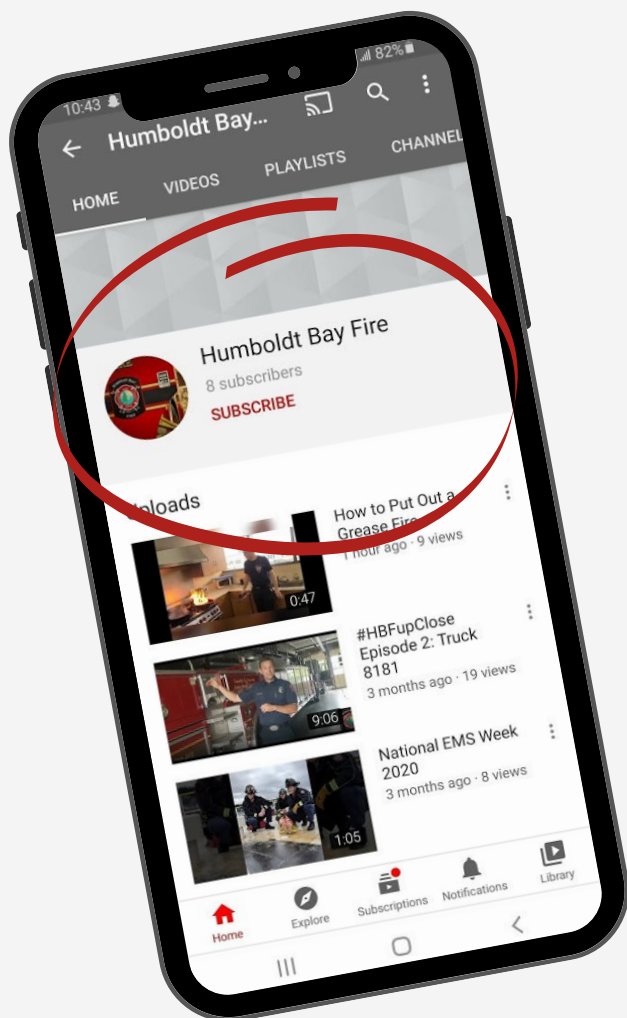
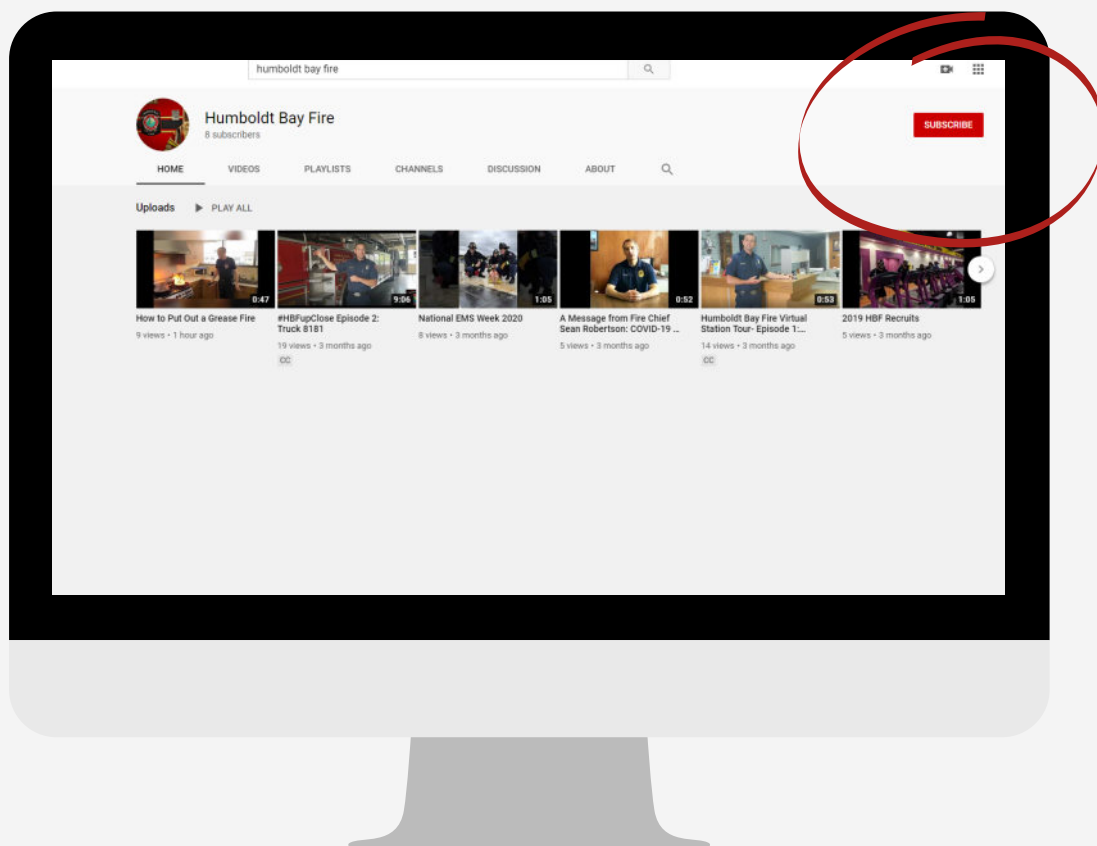
# ANNIVERSARIES & RETIREMENTS

## Anniversaries

- Deputy Chief Bill Reynolds, 25 yrs (June)
- Captain Nathan Baxley, 17 yrs (June)
- Captain Ben Miller, 17 yrs (June)
- Battalion Chief Nick Launius, 16 yrs (May)
- Captain Trevor Morris, 16 yrs (May)
- Engineer Neil Butler, 16 yrs (May)
- Captain Russell Boham, 15 yrs (April)
- Captain Tony Freeman, 15 yrs (April)
- Engineer Kevin Stokes, 15 yrs (April)
- Firefighter Yolla Montalbin, 15 yrs (April)
- Captain John Goodman, 14 yrs (June)
- Battalion Chief Chris Emmons, 14 yrs (June)
- Captain Stefan Rheinschmidt, 13 yrs (April)
- Engineer Brett Egbert, 10 yrs (April)
- Captain Matthew Dennis, 10 yrs (May)
- Administrative Assistant Kacy Tonkin, 1 yr (June)
- Fire Inspector Kemonte Cook, 1 yr (June)



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