

HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

THIRD QUARTER (JULY- SEPTEMBER) 2021



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FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the third quarter newsletter of 2021 from Humboldt Bay Fire. I said a year ago that it seems like this year keeps delivering tremendous challenges, and Humboldt Bay Fire continues to meet them head-on and that certainly seems to still be where we are!

In yet another devastating wildfire season we sent a crew to the Dixie Fire in the Lassen National Forest in Plumas County, this fire is currently at 963,309 acres! Engine 8136 was deployed as part of a Humboldt County Task Force and operated in many divisions and capacities all over the incident for 20 days.

The COVID-19 delta variant surge experienced across the country and world in August affected our personnel with a few breakthrough cases that required us to reinstitute the highest level of COVID-19 safety protocols. We also developed rapid internal testing capabilities to better serve our firefighters. We continue, and expect to maintain for the future, the highest levels of personal protection on all emergency calls to protect our firefighters and the community we serve.

Our five-year strategic plan was revised through our steering committee and approved by our Board. Our focus is on four primary goals that best serve our mission of commitment to community service through leadership, vision, and integrity. These goals include:

- Enhance effective staffing
- Create comprehensive data analysis program
- Strengthen disaster preparedness
- Build community engagement

Our medical director, Dr. Eric Gerdes, was recognized for his exceptional service to our firefighters and organization through the COVID-19 pandemic. At our September JPA Board meeting a resolution was read by Battalion Chief Tim Citro acknowledging all of the amazing contributions Dr. Gerdes has made in guiding us through the last 18 months of the pandemic, and prior with our Paramedic Program.

Engineer Mike Tyson made an incredible water rescue and received awards from the American Red Cross and the California Ambulance Association. Great work Mike! See the story in the newsletter.

Lastly, Fire prevention Week starts today and we have lots of great virtual activities for everyone to participate in. Please see the schedule in the newsletter and visit our website and social media for more information. This year's theme is learning the sounds of fire safety through Smoke and Carbon Monoxide alarms:

“Hear a beep, get on your feet, Hear a chirp, make a change”.

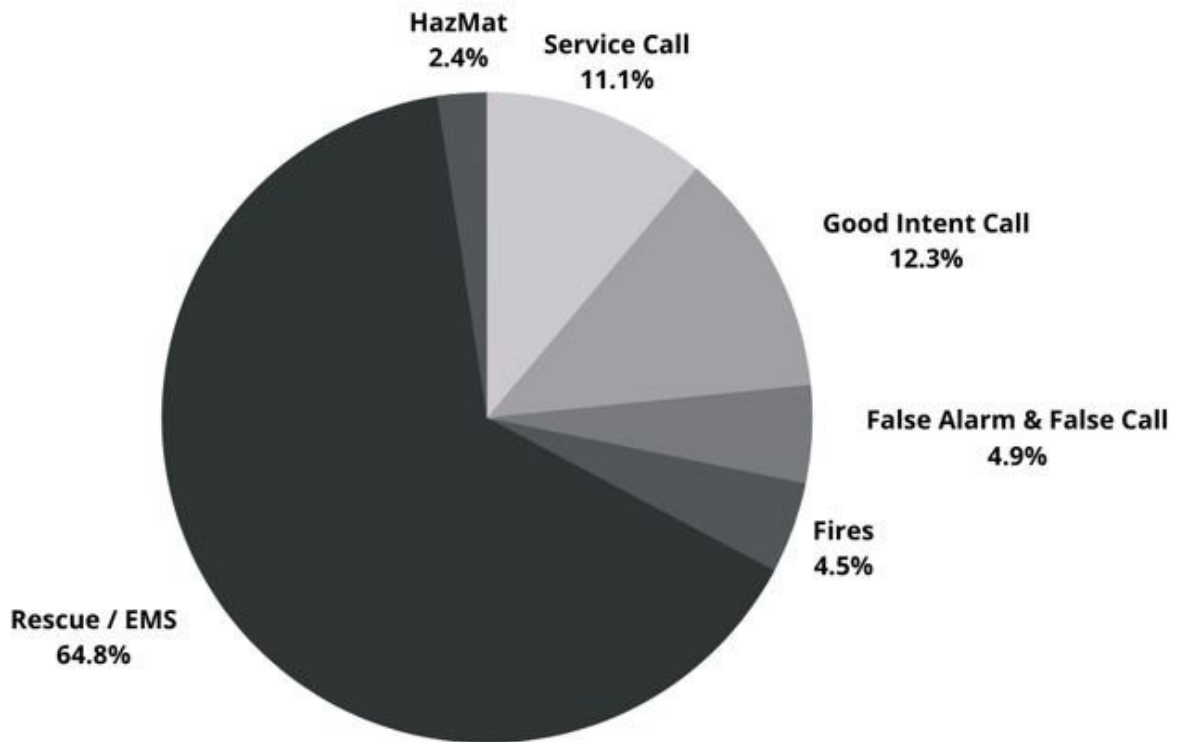
Thank you for all your support!

Sean Robertson

Fire Chief



2021 Q3 (JULY - SEPTEMBER) INCIDENT STATISTICS



Major Incident Type	# Incidents	% of Total
Fires	79	4.53%
Rescue / EMS	1,130	64.76%
HazMat	42	2.41%
Service Call	194	11.12%
Good Intent Call	214	12.26%
False Alarm	85	4.87%
Rupture / Explosion	1	0.06%
Total	1,745	100%

9/11 TRIBUTE AND THE FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL UPDATE



In honor of the victims and fallen heroes of 9/11, Humboldt Bay Firefighters lowered the flag and performed a salute at the site of the Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Eureka, CA at 8:46 A.M., the same time the first plane hit Tower One 20 years ago.



On the morning of September 13, 2021, just two days after concluding a September 11 tribute at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Humboldt Bay Firefighters discovered the site had been vandalized
Read about what happened [here](#).



RESTORED: Thank you so much for all the community support and for everyone who helped restore the Fallen Firefighters Memorial Eureka, CA to its original glory!
Special shout out to the City of Eureka, Advanced Security Systems, and Richard Geisel - we couldn't have done it without you.

A local businessperson has offered a \$1,000 reward for information leading to the identification and arrest of the suspect in the vandalism of the Humboldt Bay Fire Fallen Firefighter Memorial in Clarke Plaza, Eureka.

If you have information that could lead to the identification and arrest of the involved suspect(s), please contact Suzie Owsley with the Eureka Police Department at sowsley@ci.eureka.ca.gov or (707) 441-4373.

Thank you to the businessperson for the generous reward offer!

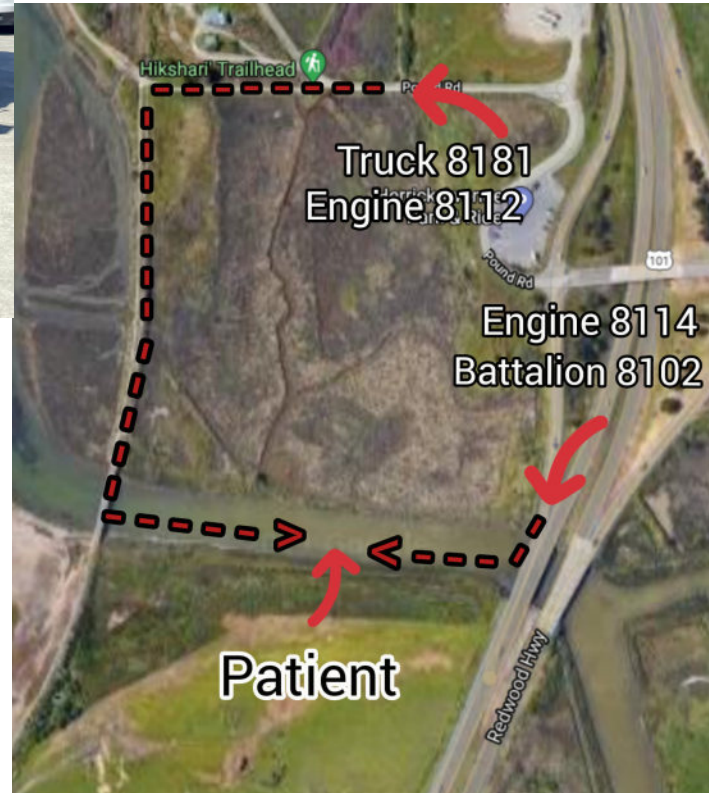


HBF WATER RESCUE SWIMMER SAVES MAN FROM ELK RIVER SLOUGH

As a result of a miraculous field save on August 4, 2021, Rescue Swimmer Michael Tyson has been awarded both the California Ambulance Association's Star of Life Award and the American Red Cross' Lifesaving Award.

The American Red Cross honored Michael in a virtual ceremony September 28th and the Star of Life Ceremony will be held October 19, 2021.

Humboldt Bay Fire is proud of Rescue Swimmer Tyson's actions which directly resulted in a life saved. We are honored and grateful for the national recognition he has received, and vow to continue offering this level of service to our community.



At 7:42 p.m. Humboldt Bay Fire was dispatched to report of a male floating in the water of the Elk River Slough near Pound Road.

Engine 8112 was the first to arrive on scene and the Rescue Swimmer located a passerby who was able to dictate the rough location of the patient.

The Swimmer deployed from the shoreline into the water while another Rescue Swimmer from Engine 8114 deployed from the Highway 101 access point, both Swimmers approaching the patient from either end of the slough. The Swimmers quickly reached the patient, grabbing him by the shoulder. The patient was alive, but hypothermic and unresponsive. The Swimmers quickly swam the patient back to shore, where three awaiting Rescue Swimmers helped get the patient out of the water and his wet clothing.

Read the full story [here](#).

STRUCTURE FIRES

COMMERCIAL FIRE AT HUMBOLDT WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



Just before 11:17am, employees of Humboldt Waste Management Authority's waste transfer station on the 1000 block of West Hawthorne Street saw smoke rising from a rubbish pile inside of their warehouse, triggering an evacuation and 911 response.

Crews were able to gain fire control and knock down the majority of the fire within the first 20 minutes. Shortly thereafter, as fans slowly ventilated the structure of smoke, a HWMA employee was able to assist crews in aerating the smoldering rubbish with an excavator allowing the crews to completely douse the pile and ensure no hot spots remained to re-ignite.

Ready full story [here](#).

STRUCTURE FIRE, 2000 BLOCK OF FAIRFIELD STREET

At 4:06p.m. on Tuesday, September 21 Humboldt Bay Fire crews were dispatched to a structure fire on the 2000 block of Fairfield Street in Eureka.

Upon entry, the crew was able to isolate the fire to the room of origin and quickly extinguish the flames. Additionally, they were able to close the doors to a second bedroom and bathroom, significantly minimizing smoke damage to those locations. These protective measures go far in helping to salvage uninvolved areas of property.

There were no human or animal injuries as a result of this fire.

Read the full story [here](#).

STRUCTURE FIRE, 1400 BLOCK OF B STREET

On August 10, 2021 at 7:10 A.M. units from Humboldt Bay Fire responded to a reported structure fire on the 1400 Block of B Street in Eureka. A Eureka Police Officer on patrol in the area arrived moments after the dispatch and reported that all occupants had self-evacuated from the structure. The officer reported that there was smoke coming from the second floor of the two-story residence.

Fire personnel were on scene for approximately two hours. Fire investigators determined the fire was accidental and most likely caused by an ignition source too close to improperly stored combustible liquids in the attic area.

Humboldt Bay Fire would like to remind everyone to store flammable and combustible liquids such as paints, solvents, and other such liquids in approved containers in areas away from of living spaces.

Read the full story [here](#).



FIREFIGHTER IN FOCUS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

KACY TONKIN

I was born and raised in Humboldt County, growing up in the small town of Willow Creek, where my parents and all 4 of my grandparents still reside. I graduated from St. Bernard's High School in 2008 and decided to stay local for college, where I earned my Bachelors of Science degree in Business Administration with a focus in accounting from Humboldt State in May 2013. With that, I began working in the accounting department at George Petersen Insurance Agency which is where I remained until June of this year when I accepted a position with Humboldt Bay Fire.

Although, still relatively new to the department it has been a great start here at Humboldt Bay Fire. I had previously worked with our Executive Secretary, Jenna Harris, for many years at Jitter Bean Coffee Company during high school and college and was happy to be reacquainted with her and have a familiar face. In my short time here, I have learned so much about the department and all they do. In addition to continuing to tap into my accounting skills, I also have taken on tasks in many other facets, including preparing this newsletter, which I hope you enjoy.

Outside of work, my passions include my family, friends, outdoors and travel. I have an 11-year-old son, Brayden, who, of course, is my whole world. Together we enjoy riding our bikes, snowboarding and camping and he is quite the card shark. My fiancé, Kory, and I enjoy hiking, camping and traveling, especially with Brayden and our 2 dogs, Lady and Remy, and just recently completed a very large DIY remodel of our house. My family means the world to me and I am very close with my parents and grandparents. My mom and dad are always quick to agree to any of my wild adventures from travels to chasing waterfalls to running half marathons or Tough Mudders with me.

I am excited to continue working at Humboldt Bay Fire and for all that I will experience and learn as well as getting to know all the wonderful people we have here in the fire service.



STRIKE TEAM



Humboldt Bay Fire was out serving our greater community this quarter, starting July 16.

They started at the CAL FIRE Trinidad station providing coverage, and were later dispatched to Weott, Bridgeville, and Fortuna.

On July 23, they battled the Island Mountain Fire near Raff Creek Rd, southeast of Alderpoint. It burned through the night and consumed 25 acres before fire crews fully contained and extinguished it.

Engine 8136 returned home July 31 for a quick 30 hours before being sent out on immediate need to the Dixie fire on August 2.

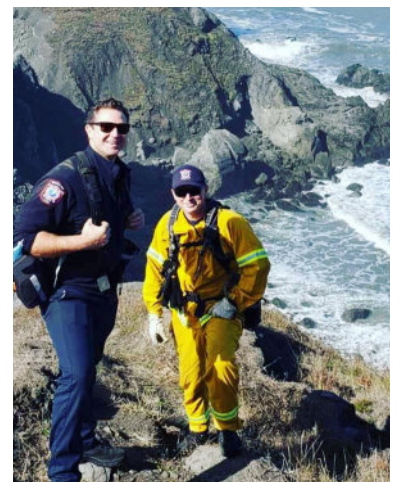
Engine 8136 was sent out to assist on the Dixie Fire from August 2nd – 22nd. They joined up with a Task Force of Type 3 and 6 engines from, Selma, Thule River, Fortuna, Colinga and a Task Force Leader from North Central Fire. During Engine 8136's time on the fire they assisted in firing operations, structure protection, water shuttle, hose line construction and mop up. They worked primarily in the area's of Lake Almanor and Janesville. This fire presented many challenges to the Dixie Fire Incident command. Severe drought conditions, high winds and high temperatures contributed to its growth. With more than 1,000 structures destroyed our hearts go out to the

Californians who have lost their homes in this massive fire. Humboldt Bay Fire sends Engines to help fight California's wildfires every year. We are happy to aid other communities during their time of need as we know there may be a time when we have to call on the rest of California to help us.

Arley Allen
Engineer



Engine 8136 went back out for station coverage on September 24 covering Cal Fire Trinidad Station and returned home again on the 30th.



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 benefits of Bystander Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

According to the CDC, heart disease is a leading cause of death in the U.S. While heart disease is on the rise, CPR can help save lives. Hundreds of thousands of people suffer cardiac arrests outside of a hospital each year. Sadly, a vast majority of them die. However, when properly and promptly performed, CPR can dramatically improve a person's chance of survival if it is started within 2 minutes of the person going down.

Anyone can learn CPR and everyone should. It is a very simple skill that can allow you to help a patient if someone ever does go down around you. Some of your Local 652 members teach CPR classes locally. You can reach out to Humboldt Bay Fire's main office at (707) 441-4000 to see if there are any upcoming classes with openings if you decide you want to be someone who will take action in an emergency.

Studies have shown that two critical links in the "chain of survival" are early CPR and early activation of the emergency resources in the area. Brain death occurs approximately four to six minutes after the heart stops beating. Compressions effectively keeps blood flowing and provides oxygen to the brain and other vital organs, giving the victim a better chance for full recovery.

Another important link in the chain is early defibrillation. CPR classes will teach you how to use a Basic Life Support (BLS) Automated External Defibrillator (AED). These devices can recognize certain heart rhythms and let you know if shocking the patient would be beneficial or not.

Often with cardiac arrest calls, our dispatchers will now ask if CPR is being done and if it hasn't been started, they will walk the bystander through how to perform CPR. This is another reason why taking a CPR class could be very beneficial. Even if you take the class once and don't use it for years, you will likely remember big learning points and the dispatcher will be able to guide you through the rest easier.

Lastly, don't let fear of performing the wrong action, contracting an infectious disease from mouth-to-mouth and legal implications prevent you from helping a patient who is in cardiac arrest. These concerns and many more are discussed in most CPR classes. There is a decreased likelihood of contracting infectious diseases with "compression-only CPR," in which no mouth-to-mouth breathing is performed. Also, many countries, including the United States, have passed "The Good Samaritan Law" that protects lay providers in instances of unsuccessful CPR attempts.

Thanks for reading and thanks for considering signing up for a CPR class.



DEPARTMENT TRAINING

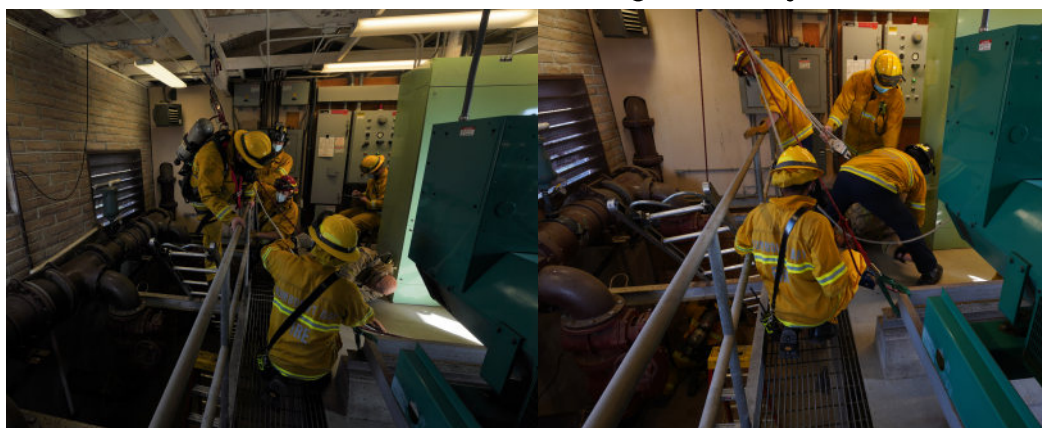
Your Humboldt Bay Firefighters are committed to community service through leadership, vision, and integrity. Providing that service in today's world gets increasingly complicated with advances in technology, a changing community, and different hazards faced by our community. A solid training program that addresses these issues, as well as the 'traditional' emergencies that firefighters are called to handle allows Humboldt Bay Fire to continually improve in our service delivery mission. In 2020, Humboldt Bay Firefighters logged almost 12,000 hours of training, in topics ranging from hose and ladder drills to Emergency Medical Services to auto extrication to technical rescue, among others.

In August of this year, your firefighters participated in a confined space rescue drill. Technical rescues such as these require a thorough knowledge in ropes and knots, raising and lowering rope systems, atmospheric monitoring, and patient packaging techniques. Humboldt Bay Fire serves as a standby rescue service to local organizations who make confined space entries as part of the service that they provide. This rescue standby requires all of Humboldt Bay Fire to participate in one confined space entry drill annually. The drill, proctored by HBF Urban Search and Rescue Team member and Engineer Adam Bumgardner, simulated a rescue of an electrocution victim from within a confined space. Crews had to assess the scene, monitor the atmosphere within the space, and develop and execute a rescue plan based on the conditions that they found.

In September of this year, the crews participated in a flammable liquid fire suppression drill. Fires involving flammable liquids are especially volatile because they cannot be extinguished by water alone, but require the use of specialized firefighting foam applied at a specific rate with a specific technique. It is important for your firefighters to be familiar with these techniques because of the large amount of flammable liquids such as gasoline in and around our community. The drill, proctored by HBF Training Captain Bret Banducci, simulated a gasoline spill involved in fire due to a damaged distribution pipe. Crews had to assess the scene, request more resources, extinguish the simulated fire using simulated firefighting foam, and control the leak safely, based on the conditions that they encountered on the scene.

These are just two recent examples of the training that Humboldt Bay Firefighters participate in. Your firefighters participate in training evolutions like those described above throughout the year. This training ensures that the firefighters are operationally prepared to mitigate any emergency within our community, and demonstrates how we are continually striving to improve our service delivery.

Nick Launius
Battalion Chief



DISPATCHER IN FOCUS

MEET AMANDA

Amanda has recently started with Eureka Police/Humboldt Bay Fire Dispatch as of September 2021. Amanda was born in Pinole, CA and moved to Humboldt in 2012. Amanda comes with some special skills as she is currently a Volunteer Firefighter/EMT with Samoa Peninsula Fire District! We are lucky to have her knowledge.

Amanda's favorite thing about dispatching so far is the variety of calls that come in and how quickly the calls for service change for each discipline. While being a first responder is not new to Amanda, she is excited to be the FIRST first responder for a change.

When not training in dispatch, Amanda is busy being a mother, wife, volunteer firefighter and EMT. She enjoys cooking, baking, playing pool, exercising and being outdoors.



2021 BATTLE OF THE BADGES

RESULTS ARE IN: 196 DONORS CAME IN FOR BOTB!
588 LIVES WERE SAVED!

- 1st** HUMBOLDT COUNTY SHERIFFS DEPT. (44)
- 2nd** EUREKA POLICE DEPT. (42)
- 3rd** HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE (25)
- 4th** CALIFORNIA HWY PATROL (16)
- 4th** BLUE LAKE RANCHERIA/ TRIBAL POLICE (16)

THANK YOU TO ALL 24 AGENCIES FOR PARTICIPATING!



- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| EPD | MCKINLEYVILLE FIRE |
| HCSO | DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICE |
| HUMBOLDT BAY FIRE | ARCATA FIRE |
| FORTUNA FIRE | BLUE LAKE FIRE |
| EUREKA CITY AMBULANCE | ARCATA PD |
| FORTUNA PD | BLUE LAKE RANCHERIA PD |
| DEPT HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES | CHP |
| CAL FIRE | FERNDALE FIRE |
| RIO DELL PD | HUMBOLDT CO PROBATION |
| HOOPA PD | LOLETA FIRE |
| HUMBOLDT STATE PD | EMT |
| TRINIDAD FIRE | CRESCENT CITY PD |

The 2021 Battle of the Badges results are in ...
We saw a total of 196 donors.
588 Lives were saved.
24 Local agencies participated.

- 1st Place winner - Humboldt County Sheriff's Office
- 2nd Place winner - Eureka Police Department
- 3rd Place winner - Humboldt Bay Fire
- 4th Place winner - CHP - Humboldt
- 4th place winner - Blue Lake Rancheria

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT PARTICIPATED IN SAVING LIVES!

Special thanks to Captain Brian Stephens with EPD, Humboldt County Sheriff William Honsel and Nazy Javid for spending the day helping us promote the importance of saving lives through blood donation. We appreciate everything you do to make our community better!



Above: Fire Chief Robertson receiving a plaque from Deanna Vallee, Donor Recruiter with the Blood Bank



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

When picking your costume keep these safety tips in mind:

- Check labels for flame retardant material
- Prevent tripping, keep hemlines short. Avoid loose and baggy sleeves and pants
- Be visible. Costumes should be made of a light colored material or have glow in the dark reflective tape.
- avoid a mask and use face paint instead.

Tips for Halloween Night:

- Use a battery powered light, not candle to light up your jack-o'-lantern
- Remove objects from your yard that may be hazard to trick-or-treaters
- If you are out driving- watch for trick-or-treaters who may be too busy to watch out for you.
- closely inspect all candy before allowing children to eat it. Discard any unwrapped candy or treats.



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 7th. So when you change your clocks, change your batteries! Smoke detectors save lives.

CHANGE YOUR BATTERIES 11.07.21

CPR/ CPR & FIRST AID CLASSES

Humboldt Bay Fire will continue 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 via e-mail 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 soon! Please call (707) 441-4000 to ask about scheduling.



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 July 1, 2021.

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

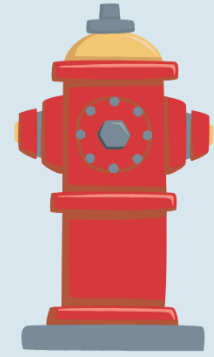
This burn suspension is subject to CAL FIRE regulation and is put in place to address the seasonal menace of wildfire and its potential to destroy life and property. The burning suspension will include all of the area within Humboldt Bay Fire’s boundaries including areas within the Eureka city limits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



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Fire Prevention Week 2021

October 4-8



Monday

Activity Packet Pickup
[8:30am-5pm]

Photos with Sparky!
[2-4pm]

Truck 8181 Social Media
Takeover

Station 1

Tuesday

CERT Webinar:
Neighborhood
Emergency Response
Planning [6pm]

Engine 8112 Social Media
Takeover

Zoom

Wednesday

Sparky Coloring Contest
& Facebook Vote - the
drawing with the most
likes will get a prize!

Engine 8113 Social Media
Takeover

Facebook

Thursday

"Sound the Alarm"
Smoke Alarm
Installation Fair - sign
up at hbfire.org

Engine 8114 Social Media
Takeover

hbfire.org

Friday

Discount Day at Eureka
Ace Hardware &
Pierson's

Big Raffle Drawing Day!

Engine 8115 Social Media
Takeover

Let's go!



Humboldt Bay Fire

707.441.4000 | info@hbfire.org | hbfire.org | @HumboldtBayFire



View full details of our schedule of events for Fire Prevention Week [here](#) and make sure to join us in the fun!



ANNIVERSARIES & RETIREMENTS

Anniversaries

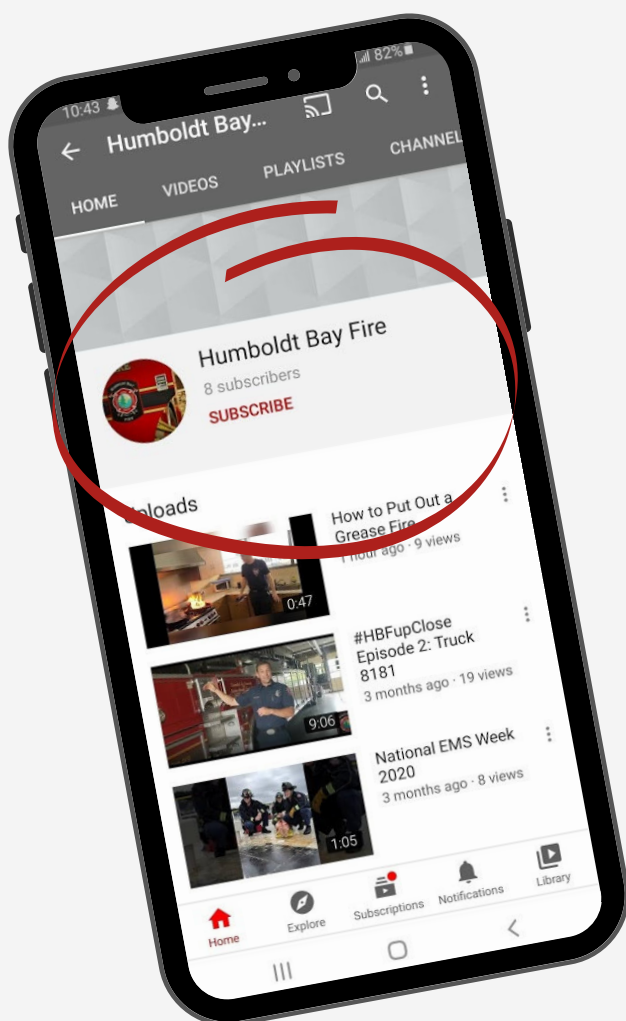
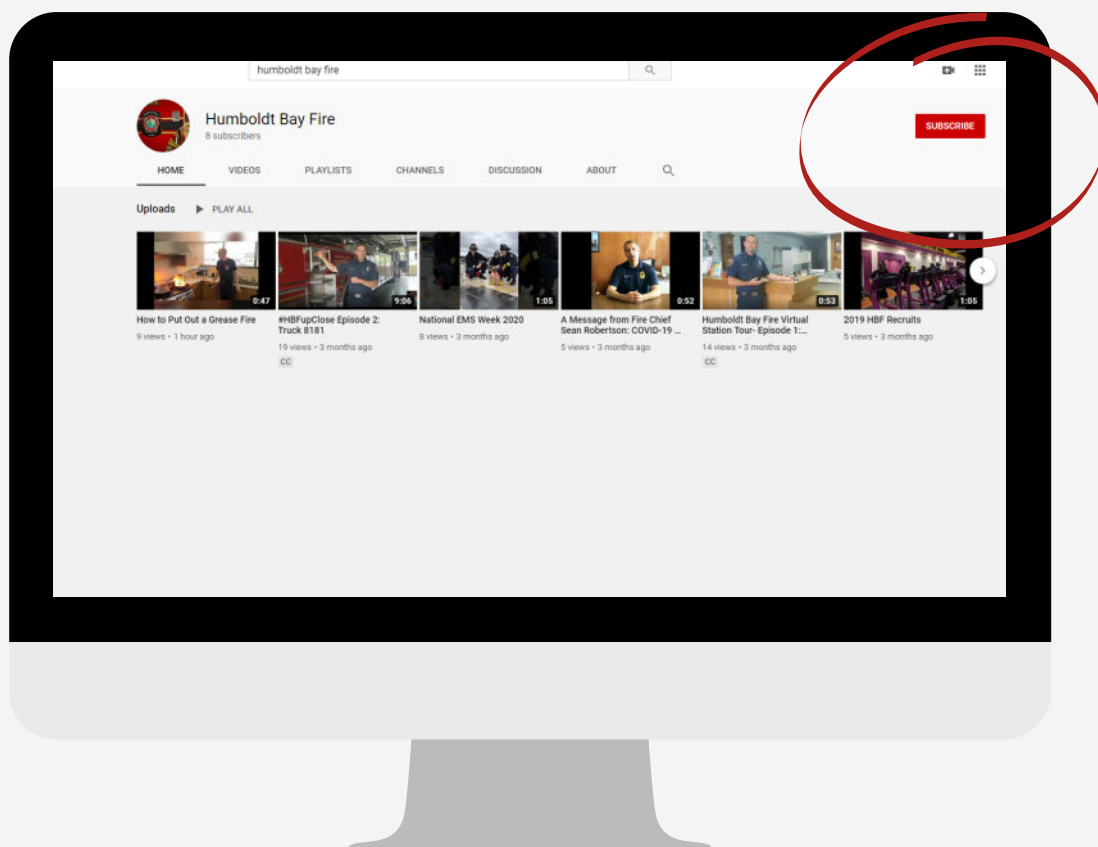
- Engineer Jeff Broberg, 25 yrs (August)
- Fire Chief Sean Robertson, 23 yrs (August)
- Captain Brooks Conner, 19 yrs (August)
- Captain Chris Mitchell, 19 yrs (August)
- Engineer Matt McFarland, 19 yrs (August)
- Captain Kris Kalman, 12 yrs (September)
- Engineer Arly Allen, 12 yrs (September)
- Engineer Hank Stoffers. 12 yrs (September)

Retirements

none



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