



Humboldt Bay Fire

Fire Wire Quarterly Newsletter

HBF represents the cooperative consolidation between Humboldt Fire District and the Eureka Fire Department

Our Mission: Committed to Community Service through Leadership, Vision, and Integrity

Volume 4, Issue 1

First Quarter 2013

Fire Chief's Corner

Greetings and welcome to this quarter's addition of our newsletter. The first quarter of 2013 has brought some major changes and improvements to your fire department and I wanted to share some of these with you. First, beginning on January 1st, we took a major step in our on-going work of consolidation. On that day all personnel, both former Humboldt Fire District and City of Eureka firefighters were permanently reassigned to new stations within our combined five station organization. You may remember that before consolidation the City maintained three stations and the District two. With the consolidation, each station now has a mixture of both former City and District personnel permanently assigned to them. Operationally this has increased our knowledge base and allows us to further integrate all of our crews. With stations now housing both former City and District personnel, they have a wider range of response knowledge and familiarity with all areas of our jurisdiction.

Consolidated staffing allows us to blend the best from each original parent organization and combine it to produce a higher level

of customer service and response capability. Crews now become more familiar with working with one another and can compare and improve their skills whether they be medical or fire suppression. Consolidating staff means there is improved efficiency and less duplication. For example before consolidation, each organization had separate individuals that performed the purchasing of various tools and equipment that go on our apparatus. Now with consolidation one person handles this task thereby increasing buying power by combining purchases and reinforcing the compatibility of equipment thereby resulting in cost savings.

Another milestone of our consolidation was the first official meeting of our governing body of the Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority. This body is made up of two appointed City of Eureka Council members and two appointed Humboldt Fire District Board members. The first meeting occurred in January and was very successful in laying out the groundwork and foundation of the new agency. As we go forward, this Board will be making financial and administrative decisions that will chart the course for further integration and



HBF Fire Chief Ken Woods

operational improvement. One immediate result was the consolidation of our vehicle maintenance program. Combining all of our repair work into one instead of two shops should improve scheduling and parts stocking and ordering. In addition, due to consolidation we can now move apparatus within all of the five stations, so that when service or repair work needs to be performed we can move and place any engine within the fleet into back up service. We are no longer limited to a City engine only replacing a City engine or visa versa on the District side. Instead substitution can be made based on operational needs and not just what is available.

Finally this quarter saw the arrival of our new tillered ladder truck. You have probably read about it in the paper or seen it

on TV but this apparatus arrived in early March and will provide us with significant operational improvements by replacing a 1977 ladder truck. The truck being replaced was underpowered and therefore limited in where it could respond within the City and District. This new apparatus is highly maneuverable and carries over three times the equipment our old ladder truck did. This translates to better response times and the ability to go anywhere in our jurisdiction. It also means that we can get the equipment we need to the scene immediately instead of having to wait for additional resources to respond. If you haven't already, you should soon see this new truck on the road in the community as crews become familiar with its operation and prepare to put it into frontline service. We are very proud of this addition and improvement to our fleet and invite you to see it at our headquarters station, 533 C Street. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter and as always, please feel free to contact us with any questions.

by Chief Ken Woods

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Be Safe, Be Prepared



Humboldt Bay Fire announces Community Emergency Response Team training on June 7th, 8th, and 9th in Eureka.

Our community is at risk for disasters such as earthquakes, tsunami, and winter storms. In a disaster, the number of

victims and incidents prevents responders from providing the usual level of emergency services we have come to expect through calling 911.

People who go through CERT training have a better understanding of the potential threats to their home, workplace and community. By becoming a

CERT member you could be the first link in providing assistance to the people in your neighborhood, workplace, as well as to our professional rescuers.

This training will educate community members about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their

area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in our neighborhoods or workplace following an

event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members are also encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

For more information on how you can apply to be a HBF CERT team member, please contact Humboldt Bay Fire at 441-4000.

by Volunteer Prevention Specialist Jenny Williamson

We fulfill our mission by living our core values: **P**rofessionalism **R**espect **I**mage **D**iscipline **E**fficiency



History In The Making

**"Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress;
working together is success."**
- Henry Ford

History is being made in Humboldt County. The formation of a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) comprised of Humboldt No. 1 Fire Protection District and the City of Eureka's Fire Department has occurred. A board of directors has been selected for the JPA and by the time this newsletter distributes, three official meetings of the board will have taken place. Times are changing and the citizens of the greater Eureka area are benefitting.

The Humboldt No. 1 Fire District was formed in 1929 with one Seagrave fire engine purchased by the County. Fast forward to 1949 and Fire Chief Herman E. Mendenhall and two firefighters occupied a horse barn at Redwood Acres to become the first paid crew and staffed fire station of the District.

Meanwhile, the Eureka Fire Department had been in service since 1864 and just purchased their first Ford 500 gpm pumper. Because of the District's hiring of

Chief Mendenhall and two firefighters, the agreement in place between them and the City of Eureka regarding storage and manpower of pumbers that had been in place since the early 1930's, ceased.

More fire stations opened and closed for both the District and the City. More progressive apparatus were purchased and older machines were sold. A lot of comings and goings transpired before the District and City made a significant historical move. In 1992 both Departments agreed to drop the boundary lines between the two agencies, allowing the closest, most available engine company to respond to an incident, regardless of what area it occurred. This decision initiated even larger leaps of progress, including the hiring of a shared Training Officer in 2010 and a shared Fire Chief in 2011. Consolidation of the neighboring departments was officially underway.

It is with great excitement that I announce the Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority was made an official entity on Tuesday, November 20th, with a vote from the Eureka City Council. The District Board voted earlier in the month on the 13th. Consolidating both fire

departments benefits the citizens of Eureka and the District in many ways. Benefits include cost savings for the taxpayers in an economically depressed time (savings in administrative personnel, equipment and apparatus, and training of fire staff) and most importantly an improved level of community service (faster response times and combined resources and programs).

Humboldt Bay Fire is more than a consolidation of two public safety agencies; it is a merging of histories and cultures. On January 1, 2013 for the first time in District and City history, station assignments of assimilated crews took effect. This means that District employees are working at City stations with City personnel and apparatus and vice versa. Captain Allen Gillespie, who has been employed with the District since February of 2000, began a new assignment at a City firehouse, Station 4, working with an Engineer and Firefighter hired by the City. When asked about his experience he responded, "I have been pleased to view the level of personal pride and commitment evident in the people I am working with."

Captain Gillespie also demonstrated the biggest benefit of consolidation, improved commitment to customer service, when recounting some advice from a mentor. "Much earlier in my career I asked a retiring Captain who I very much respected for one parting bit of advice about stepping up to the Captain's role. He told me to remember that it is always about the people. If you take care of your people,



your crew and co-workers, they will take care of you as the Captain. That kind of trust and closeness makes it possible to take care of the people we serve."

Captain Jon Chambers, a City employee of five years who now leads a mixed crew of City and District firemen at a District station, shares Captain Gillespie's sentiment. "Mixed crews have been easy. The line guys have been ready for this for a long time on both sides. I enjoy that the "fire family" has officially gotten bigger." When asked about the newly formed Humboldt Bay Fire he said, "The biggest benefit I see to the consolidation is to the community.

I truly believe that we are providing a better level of service and are saving money."



Captain Jon Chambers, Station 12, involved in a logging truck extrication operation on 8/29/11

From: Kenneth Woods [kwoods@hfd1.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 20, 2012 8:29 PM
To: All HFD; EFD Personnel
Subject: JPA

Tonight the Council passed the JPA so Humboldt Bay Fire is an official entity. Thanks again to everyone for helping to make this happen.

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID

An email from Chief Woods declaring the official formation of the Humboldt Bay Fire JPA.

Humboldt Bay Fire Anniversaries, New Hires, Promotions and Retirements

Anniversaries:

Volunteer Greg Jernigan 29 yrs (March)
Assistant Chief Bill Gillespie 17 yrs (March)
Battalion Chief Chris Jelinek 17 yrs (March)
Captain Timothy Citro 13 yrs (February)
Captain Allen Gillespie 13 yrs (February)
Captain James Flynn 10 yrs (January)
Engineer Colin Beddow 10 yrs (January)
Firefighter Jason Campillo 10 yrs (January)
Engineer Ray Marchi 6 yrs (February)

Firefighter Brandon Johnson 4 yrs (January)
Firefighter Craig Whitbeck 3 yrs (January)
Volunteer Tyler Gillespie 3 yrs (January)
Firefighter Brett Christensen 2 yrs (March)
Firefighter Justin Conner 2 yrs (March)
Firefighter David Terry 2 yrs (March)
Fire Services Officer Sarah Judd 1 yr (March)
Volunteer Brandon Amis 1 yr (January)
Volunteer Adam Bumgardner 1 yr (January)
Volunteer Taylor Kennon 1 yr (January)

Volunteer Eric Snipes 1 yr (January)
Volunteer Keith White 1 yr (January)
Volunteer Jared Wattle 1 yr (January)

New Hires:

Firefighter Eric Gatti
Volunteer Firefighter Jhon Bonham
Volunteer Firefighter Jesse Boomer
Volunteer Firefighter Tim Burwell
Volunteer Firefighter Corey Johnson

Promotions and Retirements:

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Firefighter In Focus

I grew up on El Capitan State Beach just north of Santa Barbara. My dad worked for the Department of Parks and Recreation, so my older brother Nick and I had the beach as our backyard. I had an interest in public safety from a young age and was a junior lifeguard and lifeguard assistant before joining the Santa Barbara Fire Explorers at the age of 15. I was with the Explorers for six years, where I was taught basic fire fighting skills and opened the doors to other fire service

opportunities. During my senior year of high school I attended the Wildland Fire Explorer Academy in the Angeles National Forest. It was here that I got my first experience with wildland fire fighting and earned my basic wild land certifications. I was invited back the following year to help instruct the new cadets.

I graduated from Dos Pueblos High School in 2008 and began taking Fire Technology classes and earned my EMT certificate from Oxnard City College. After

two semesters at Oxnard, I hired onto the Sundowners Crew in Ojai, CA during the summer of 2009. The Sundowners is a Type II hand crew that responds to vegetation and wildland fires. I left the crew to go to the fire academy in Oxnard, CA after the summer was over. I graduated from the Oxnard Fire Academy at the end of 2009 when I was 19. I earned my Fire Fighter I certification and various other certifications that made it possible for me to be considered for more fire jobs.

Shortly after my academy, I was hired with Advanced Fire and Rescue in Santa Clarita, CA. With AFR, we provided Fire and EMS services at raceways, NASCAR events, film studios and other private venues. I was with AFR for a few months before being hired in the summer of 2010 with Atascadero City Fire Department. The first season, I commuted 2 hours north from Santa Barbara. After my first season, I moved to Atascadero when I was offered a reserve fire fighter position with the city. I was

hired back for two more seasons after that and continued to be a reserve for that time as well. AFD is an all-risk department, so it was here that I gained most of my fire and EMS experience. While working for AFD, I also continued my fire education by taking more classes and training courses whenever possible. Aside from firefighting positions, I have held a variety of part time jobs. I have been a host and bus boy at an Italian restaurant in Santa Barbara, I have worked in customer service at a health club in Goleta, I did sales at Big 5 Sporting Goods in Atascadero and worked at a restaurant and bar in downtown San Luis Obispo.

I have always been an active person and when I am not working I have enjoyed exploring the Humboldt area. I have always loved trail running, mountain biking and surfing and am excited that I am living in a place where I can continue to participate in the things I enjoy to do. I am also extremely competitive and love participating in adventure races like Mud Mash and Tough Mudder's and am planning to race some triathlons and marathons in the near future.

Firefighter Eric Gatti



Eric Gatti gets pinned by Nikki Spurgeon

I moved to Eureka in January and started with Humboldt Bay Fire shortly after. As you may know, this career is very competitive to get into and is constantly changing. Despite this, I have never seen myself pursuing anything other than a career in the fire service. It is so diverse and I have always been drawn to it. Having the knowledge and skills to bring comfort and relief to those in need is an incredibly satisfying feeling. I am really glad to be a part of this department and am looking forward to serving the Humboldt Bay community.

New Command Vehicles in Service Soon



production by Ford in 2012. Unlike the Crown Vic, the Interceptor Sedan and Utility models were designed from the ground up for code three emergency response and law enforcement use.

Recently, two new command vehicles arrived for Humboldt Bay Fire. The two vehicles are 2013 Ford Interceptor Utility vehicles, and replace a 1996 Chevy Suburban command vehicle and a high mileage 2000 Ford Taurus travel car. The two new vehicles should be in service in late April following vehicle build-up and radio installation.

The Ford Interceptor line of vehicles, which includes the all wheel drive Utility option and an all wheel drive Sedan, are Ford Motor Company's replacement for the long standing Crown Victoria Police Interceptor so commonly used by law enforcement and fire agencies. The Crown Vic, as it is often called, was phased out of

The two vehicles purchased for the fire department were part of a three vehicle purchase by the City of Eureka, with the third vehicle going to the Eureka Police Department (EPD). Both departments worked with City of Eureka Fleet Manager Rob McNamara on the joint purchase. Knowing that the two older fire department vehicles were at the end of their service life, and EPD also had a vehicle need, McNamara recommended the new Interceptor Utility. There were a number of reasons why the Interceptor was a good choice for both departments and the City. At the time of purchase, Ford was offering an incentive discount that made the vehicle very attractive financially. Having multiple vehicles of the same make and model is helpful from the fleet maintenance

side, as it results in fewer individual parts having to be stocked, and gives our mechanics fewer vehicle models to have to learn and become proficient on. Having multiple vehicles set up the same way also helps drivers with vehicle familiarity.

The vehicles were ordered with factory prep packages which provided part of the emergency lighting and the lighting controller, as well as some of the wiring already installed for other add-on lighting needs. The vehicles are currently being "built up", which involves installation of light bars, side and front warning lighting, and rear back-up lights. Exterior stripping and Humboldt Bay Fire emblems and identification has been installed. On the interior, we are adding two radios for emergency communication, with control heads and microphones near the driver seat and at the rear of the vehicle. One radio will be a standard single band radio for fire and police use, and the second radio is a dual band radio, which has the same frequency band as the first radio, but with a second band containing a different frequency range for use with ambulances and local hospitals during mass casualty incidents, and allied agencies using this frequency series. The vehicles will have in-

Assistant Chief Bill Gillespie

vehicle computers at the driver console for mapping and incident command functions, and the rear of the vehicle will be set up as a miniature on scene command center where incident commanders can maintain radio communications, track resources, and develop the on-scene plan to mitigate the emergency presented.

Though the vehicles are a new style and model, many law enforcement and fire agencies have begun purchasing the Interceptor series. The California Highway Patrol recently announced the planned purchase of 750 of the Interceptor Utility, the Chicago Police Department has ordered a mix of the Utility and Sedan, and the New York Police Department has also endorsed the Interceptor Sedan as its next patrol car. Locally, a number of agencies are either looking at the Interceptor series, or have begun purchases.

Humboldt Bay Fire looks forward to putting the new vehicles into service soon, as they will assist our department with our delivery of customer service to our community.



Humboldt Bay Fire
533 C Street
Eureka, CA 95501

**CPR and First Aid Classes
Call (707) 441-4000
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**CPR and AED for Adults, Children,
and Infants**
4 hour class - \$20
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June 25, 6:00 p.m.

**BasicPlus CPR, AED, and First Aid
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8 hour class - \$40
April 13, 8:00 a.m.
May 11, 8:00 a.m.
June 8, 8:00 a.m.

New! Pet First Aid & CPR
4 hour class - \$30
June 15, 9:00 a.m.

This newsletter is made possible by the paid advertisements within. If you would like to see your ad in future newsletters, contact HBF Battalion Chief Emmons at (707) 441-4000 or at cemmons@HBFire.org

**2013 1st Quarter
Response Statistics**

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Structure Fire Response | 17 |
| Vehicle Fire Response | 4 |
| Medical Aid Response | 902 |
| Extrication/Water Rescue Response | 5 |
| Other Response | 414 |
| TOTAL | 1,342 |

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