



Humboldt Bay Fire

Fire Wire Quarterly Report

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.

Fire Chief's Message

Greetings and welcome to this quarter's edition of our newsletter. As you know from reading past newsletters, "Customer Service" is at the forefront of the work we do. With that said I wanted to provide you with two examples of how our firefighters provided "customer service". Recently one of our engine companies responded to a medical emergency at the Target parking lot. When they arrived on the scene they found a husband and wife who were traveling from out of town with the wife suffering a medical emergency and needing transport to the hospital. So, following treatment by our firefighters, the wife went off to the hospital in the ambulance leaving the husband behind in the parking lot. As mentioned complicating the problem was the fact that the couple was traveling and their vehicle was hooked to a travel trailer and the husband had no idea

where the hospital was located or how to get there. Therefore the engine crew decided to assist the husband by helping him unhook his trailer from the vehicle so he could more easily travel to the hospital. They then led him to the hospital where he could check on the condition of his wife and be by her side.

A few weeks after this incident we received a call from the couple's son who advised that though he too works for a fire department, his department would never allow them to go out of their way and provide the level of "customer service" that our crew did. He was very appreciative of the way his parents were treated and assisted.

Another recent example was a woman who had run out of gas on a busy street and at the same time had one of her tires go flat. As our engine crew was driving by they stopped to see if they could assist. They



Fire Chief Ken Woods

helped her by adding fuel to the vehicle and then followed her a short distance to a location where they put air in the tire in order for her to drive to a repair shop. Though it wasn't an emergency they were able to safely assist her in getting the help she needed to continue on her way.

At Humboldt Bay Fire we know that it's our job to respond to emergencies and try to make things better for the victims, be it a medical emergency, vehicle accident or fire, but we also understand

by Chief Ken Woods

that our job doesn't end there. We are committed to helping victims beyond the initial emergency situation and will work to get them back to as normal a condition in their lives as possible. We will also work to assist community members in non-emergency situations as well.

Though these were just two examples of the many comments I receive regarding the way our firefighters provide "customer service" to the community every day, I wanted to share them with you as I believe they are representative of the fact that "customer service" is more than just a saying in our department but a part of the everyday way we do business. I also wanted to share it with you as I am very proud that our firefighters understand the true meaning of "customer service", and they practice it every day in the field.

Fire Sprinkler and Alarm Systems

Fire sprinkler and alarm systems have been installed in three Humboldt Bay Fire Stations. The project was funded by a \$200,000.00 Federal Assistance for Firefighter Grant. The grant funded the installation of an automatic fire alarm system and sprinkler systems at Fire Stations 3 and 4, and a fire alarm system at our Headquarters Fire Station.

These systems will protect our ability to maintain our service to the community should there be a fire at one of these stations. The loss of any of our capabilities from fire

would significantly reduce our ability to serve the community's variety of emergency response needs. The early detection and suppression of a fire will help to insure that our firefighters, stations, vehicles and equipment will be there when needed.

Fires at fire stations are not unheard-of. Building fires are more common than most people realize. An average home, for example, can expect five fires in its lifetime. While most of those fires will be small, fires resulting in little or no damage, one in four homes will experience a fire large enough to be reportable to the fire department.*

by Assistant Chief Rusty Goodlive

In all buildings, fire sprinklers are the most effective protection of life and property from fire. Sprinklers confine fires to the room of origin in 95% of fires with an 83% reduction in fire deaths and a 40-70% reduction in property loss.*

Fire sprinklers don't work like you see on TV; they do not all go off at once. Each sprinkler head is sensitive to heat and only the head(s) over the fire will activate. Sprinklers control almost all fires with just one or two heads activated. Water damage from sprinklers is a fraction of fire damage in buildings not equipped with

sprinklers.*

Fire alarm systems provide early notification to building occupants and notification of an alarm company dispatcher. Like interconnected smoke alarms in homes, the activation of a fire alarm system will sound an alarm throughout a building. In a large building like our Headquarters fire station, personnel could easily be somewhere remote from the fire with a critical time delay before they became aware of the fire. The automatic notification of the alarm company insures an immediate

Third Quarter 2013

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2013 3rd Quarter Response Statistics

Structure Fire Response—23
Vehicle Fire Response—5
Rubbish/Outside Fire Response—45
Medical Aid Response—657
Extrication/Water Rescue Response—4
Other Response—673
TOTAL—1,407

response to an alarm when personnel are not in the station.

Fire stations, like homes and other buildings, are at risk of fires. And like the occupants of homes and other buildings, the best life safety fire protection system for firefighters and facilities is a fire sprinkler system and early notification systems. These systems will help to insure Humboldt Bay Fire continues to provide our current services should there be a fire in one of these stations.

*National Fire Protection Assoc.



HBF Identity And Philosophy by Captain Timothy Citro

On January 1st 2013, the line staffs from Humboldt Fire District #1 and Eureka Fire Department were "mixed". In other words, both agency's employees are now working together at all five stations. Prior to the consolidation and creation of Humboldt Bay Fire, District employees only staffed the Fire District's two stations and City employees only staffed the City's three fire stations. There are now five Humboldt Bay Fire Stations that are staffed by Humboldt Bay Firefighters.

"Humboldt Bay Fire has created a new identity with philosophies that go beyond just fighting fire. Every member of the organization embraces the "community first" lifestyle within the single Humboldt Bay Fire organization."

also had to train together to develop crew continuity and learn the buildings, geography and hazards of the "first-in" areas of their new station.

The mixing of City and District crews is one of the most important steps taken during the process of consolidation and the firefighters are adjusting well to their new surroundings. Combined training has led to more efficient operations and identification of "best practices" on emergencies. With the

mixing of personnel, Humboldt Bay Fire has created a new identity with philosophies that go beyond just fighting fire. Every member of the organization embraces the "community first" lifestyle within the single Humboldt Bay Fire organization. We welcome input from our citizens on how we can improve our service. Please email us with your comments to info@hbfire.org.

Since the mixing of the crews there have been the usual adjustments. Just like moving into a new home, firefighters were learning the daily routine, where everything was stored, how the stations were maintained and learning to live with different firefighters. Humboldt Bay firefighters work 48 hour shifts and adjusting to living with new firefighters is a change. Firefighters

HBF Provides Training To The Community by Battalion Chief Chris Emmons

Humboldt Bay Fire is not just a Fire and Rescue agency. We provide free educational opportunities to our community members on topics such as Disaster Preparedness, Home Safety, Workplace Safety, and Fire Extinguisher Training. For a nominal fee for supplies, we also provide CPR and Medic First Aid classes to both private groups and in a public setting. We also install child safety seats and the appropriate information to properly secure a child in a safety seat. The Humboldt

Bay Fire Prevention Bureau is available to come to job sites, schools, and community assemblies and will provide training ranging from lectures to hands-on safety training involving live fire.

If you are interested in having the experts from your Humboldt Bay Fire Prevention Bureau provide training, contact Humboldt Bay Fire at (707) 441-4000.



Humboldt Bay Fire firefighters John Goodman, left, David Terry, Michael Landry, Andrew Hawkins, and Matt Dennis stand atop the Renaissance Tower in downtown Sacramento during the 5th-Annual 9/11 Memorial Climb.

Humboldt Bay Fire Anniversaries and New Hires

Anniversaries:

Volunteer Greg Jernigan, 29 yrs (July)
 Captain Jim Andresen, 26 yrs (July)
 Assistant Chief Rusty Goodlive, 22 yrs (August)
 Captain II Dan Salinger, 18 yrs (July)
 Photographer Gary Stone, 17 yrs (August)
 Battalion Chief Kent Hulbert, 17 yrs (August)
 Engineer Jeff Broberg, 17 yrs (August)

Captain Carl Gossien, 16 yrs (September)
 Captain Jeff Nicklas, 16 yrs (September)
 Battalion Chief Sean Robertson, 15 yrs (August)
 Battalion Chief Ed Laidlaw, 14 yrs (August)
 Engineer Kevin Voorhees, 11 yrs (August)
 Engineer Chris Mitchell, 11 yrs (August)
 Engineer Matt McFarland, 11 yrs (August)

Engineer Rick Lahargoue, 11 yrs (August)
 Engineer Brooks Conner, 11 yrs (August)
 Engineer Andrew Hawkins, 6 yrs (September)
 Inspector Bill Walser, 5 yrs (September)
 Firefighter Hank Stoffers, 4 yrs (September)
 Firefighter Bela (Kris) Kalman, 4 yrs (September)
 Firefighter Arly Allen, 4 yrs (September)
 Volunteer Tyler Gillespie, 3 yrs (September)

CPR and First Aid Classes, Call (707) 441-4000 to register

CPR and AED for Adults, Children, and Infants 4 hour class - \$20

October 8, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
 October 22, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
 November 12, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
 November 26, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
 December 10, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Continued:

December 17, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
 January 14, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
 January 28, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
 February 11, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
 February 25, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
 March 11, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

BasicPlus CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults 8 hour class - \$40

October 19, 2013, 8:00 a.m.
 November 9, 2013, 8:00 a.m.
 December 14, 2013, 8:00 a.m.
 January 11, 2014, 8:00 a.m.
 February 8, 2014, 8:00 a.m.



Save the Date: October 12, 2013
Humboldt Bay Fire
Annual Open House
 Join us for a fun family event!!!





Firefighter In Focus

My introduction into the fire service started simply as a challenge by my family to find a career which I really enjoyed. So, in the Spring of 2009, I attended my first Fire Technology class in Southern California. After the first day of class I was hooked and immediately signed up for any and every class I could take.

Shortly after starting my classes, I tested for a Firefighter position at La Habra Heights Fire Department in Los Angeles County. Within a few months they called and offered me a position as a Volunteer Firefighter. La Habra Heights Fire Department gave me the opportunity to learn the basic and advanced skills that were required to be a Firefighter.

After committing numerous hours per week at the fire department, working 40 hours a week as a carpenter, volunteering, and taking college classes, and traveling all over the state, I was blessed to

receive a job offer with Humboldt Bay Fire. In early May of 2012, the recruit academy started for me and my fellow recruit Brett Egbert.

After successfully completing the six week recruit academy for Humboldt Bay Fire, I began my twelve month probationary term. The first few shifts were challenging, as I had to quickly learn my duties and responsibilities. It was only after my second week on duty that we responded to my first working structure fire. Dispatch had us respond to the residence. We arrived on scene to heavy smoke and fire conditions from the kitchen. Our assignment was fire attack. All of my training had reminded me to remain calm and cool as I followed the direction of my Captain. We gained entry into the structure and were confronted with bad visibility from the smoke and heavy fire conditions. I opened the nozzle and cooled down the room, which then

gave us the opportunity to enter the room and further extinguish any remaining hot spots.

Overall, my first structure fire was a great experience. No one was injured or hurt in the process of the emergency, which made the scenario a good one despite the loss of property. I have been on several structure fires and other incidents since which gave me the opportunity to gain much experience as a Firefighter. One of the most valuable things I've learned in this career is to remain humble as each day brings new opportunities to learn and better myself.

I'd like to thank my family for their support, the operations personnel and administration personnel of Humboldt Bay Fire who trained and encouraged me along the way. I'm hungry and eager to continuously become better so I can have a

Firefighter Ryan Booth

positive impact in Eureka and its greater areas.



Firefighter Ryan Booth, pictured with Grandma Mary Jo Lidke and father Roger Booth, following his badge pinning ceremony

The Executive Fire Officer Program

The Executive Fire Officer Program is an initiative of the United States Fire Administration and National Fire Academy (NFA) designed to provide senior fire officers with a broad perspective on various facets of fire and emergency services administration. The EFOP curriculum and research framework examines how senior authority figures can exercise leadership when dealing with difficult, adaptive problems within their jurisdictions.

EFOP participants enhance their professional development through a unique series of four resident graduate- and upper-level college-equivalent courses, and the completion of an Applied Research Project (ARP) for each course. The EFOP spans a 4-year period and consists of four 2-week courses. The program curriculum includes coursework in Executive Development, Executive Analysis of Community Risk Reduction, Executive Analysis of Fire Service Operations in Emergency Management, and finishes with a course titled Executive Leadership. These courses offered opportunities

to not only develop leadership and managerial skills, but to reach out beyond the redwood curtain and network with fire service leaders from around the Country. The friendships I established with my colleagues will last a lifetime.

An important program requirement is that each Applied Research Project must address a specific issue within the student's home community. For example, my own ARPs covered various topics including development of an incident safety officer program, fire risk reduction strategies related to indoor marijuana cultivation, evaluating the efficacy of cross-staffed engine companies (mixing of personnel from Eureka Fire Department and Humboldt #1 Fire Protection District onto one 3-person engine company), and most recently an evaluation of the efficacy of a four-person staffed quint (a quint is a ladder truck with a pump and water tank) versus a three-person staffed engine plus one-person staffed ladder truck.

Each of these topics presented their

own unique challenges but for me two of these projects really stand out. The first was in my efforts to identify ways to reduce the frequency of indoor-grow related fires in our community. I interviewed a wide variety of community members ranging from politicians, law enforcement, community planners, home owners, and owners of local hydroponic shops. It really broadened my perspective of how the "grow house fire problem" isn't just a fire department problem, it is a community one, with wide-reaching socio-economic impacts to our community. As a side note, my ARP advisor lives in the Midwest, and his "Midwestern perspective" as he put it caused him to resist my research proposal. He really couldn't wrap his mind around the idea that medicinal marijuana is legal in California!

My most recent ARP (4-person staffed quint evaluation) is also memorable because of its organizational impact. Prior to October of 2011 Eureka Fire Department staffed our headquarters station with three personnel assigned to Engine 8115, and one person assigned to the ladder truck (Truck

by Battalion Chief Chris Jelinek

8181). Over a three month trial period we down staffed Engine 8115 and placed all four personnel on Truck 8181. The results were unexpected and very impressive. Placing four personnel on one apparatus not just on structural fires but on other incident types as well. In fact, two field-saves have been credited to having an extra person on scene to assist with critical tasks such as airway management. I am particularly proud of this research project because it demonstrates how a simple (but significant) movement of personnel between apparatus can have a major impact on service delivery.

Three more of our department members, Assistant Chief Bill Gillespie, Battalion Chief Chris Emmons, and Captain II Tim Citro have begun their journey into the EFOP. Their experiences will bring even more new ideas and solutions to the newly formed Humboldt Bay Fire Department.



Save the Date: October 13, 2013
Humboldt Bay Firefighters
Bark In The Park
Benefit 5K Walk/Run in Sequoia Park

