



Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority

Second Quarter 2015 (April - June)
E-Newsletter

Our Mission:

*Committed to
community service
through leadership,
vision, and integrity.*

Fire Chief's Message

Welcome to this quarter's edition of our newsletter. We have already seen an active fire season begin in our County with numerous fires occurring due to lighting, and the potential for more fires due to the drought conditions. Within the 57 square mile area served by Humboldt Bay Fire we've also seen an overall increase in the total number of calls we respond to on a daily basis and anticipate this trend continuing.

Lately I'm sure you have seen some of the publicity regarding the City of Eureka's budget woes. Due to the fact that Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority's funding comes from the City (65%) and from Humboldt No.1 Fire District (35%), the City's budget problems will have an effect on our operations as well. The City has a structural deficit of roughly 2.4 million dollars and has reduced their contribution to Humboldt Bay Fire by \$708,000 this coming fiscal

year. The result of this cut will be the closing of Fire Station #4 on Myrtle Avenue in the City for much of the year starting July 1. Stations #2 on Herrick and #5 on Harris Streets will remain open 24/7, 365 days a year with no reduction in staffing due to the District paying their full contribution of 35% to the JPA. Station #1 at C Street will remain open with a reduction in staff and we are hopeful Station #3 off of Henderson will remain open all year, but there is a possibility that it could be closed for several days due to the budget constraints.

This significant funding cut came as a surprise to our agency since the mid-year City budget did not indicate that a reduction was coming. Additionally our consolidation has not only improved service to the area since our formation in 2011 but has also saved the City hundreds of thousands of dollars in the process. In spite of these savings our challenge now



Fire Chief Ken Woods

is to continue to provide the highest level of service possible with one less fire station serving the community on a daily basis. This means that when we respond to a reported structure fire we send 4 of our 5 stations. With one less station after July 1st we will have to rely on outside fire agencies to provide coverage during these fires.

During these difficult times we are exploring any and all ways of increasing revenue which can be used solely for the JPA. Two of these areas are through enhanced services and Federal reimbursement through the Affordable Care Act, and State reimbursement by

Chief Ken Woods

covering Cal Fire stations during the summer. Both of these methods could help to bring in additional revenue allowing us to keep all of our stations staffed. We are also looking into staffing a smaller squad type vehicle will fewer personnel. This unit, though, not as capable or as effective as a fire engine staffed with three, could potentially allow us to deploy two firefighters to medical and service related calls. Finally we are in the process of reducing our Command staff and office staff in order to save additional funds.

Throughout all of these changes and challenges our goal remains customer service and we will continually look for ways to improve it, and implement it, in a cost effective manner. We thank you for all of your support during this process and do not take it for granted.

Inside This Issue

Fire Chief's Message	1
How To Have A Blast Without Having A Blast!!!	1
Where In The World?	2
Type 3 Engines-What Are They And How Does HBF Use Them?	2
Firefighter In Focus	3
Arson Awareness	3
Upcoming CPR Classes	3

Response Statistics

Structure Fire/Explosion	27
Vehicle Fire	13
Rubbish Fire	39
Vegetation Fire	14
Medical Aid Response	950
Extrication/Water Rescue	4
Animal Rescue	2
Haz Mat/Combustible Spill	16
Other Hazards Response	26
Other/Service Call	209
False Alarm	249
Second Quarter Total	1,549
2015 YTD Total	2,967

How To Have A Blast Without Having A Blast!!!

It's that time of year again to celebrate our great country's independence. Humboldt Bay Fire would like everyone to practice safe revelry for this Independence Day. Here's a little data by the National Fire Protection Association that many people may not be aware of. In 2011 fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 reported fires, including 1,200 total structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in an estimated eight reported civilian deaths, 40 civilian injuries and \$32 million in direct property damage. In 2012, U.S. hospital emergency rooms treated an estimated 8,700 people for fireworks related injuries; 55% of 2012 emergency room fireworks-related injuries were to the extremities and 31% were to the head.

More injuries occur to young people ages under 24 years than any other group. On Independence Day in a typical year, far more U.S. fires are reported than on any other day, and fireworks account for 40% of those fires, more than any other cause of fires.

Here's how you can be safe and legal in our area. Humboldt Bay Fire would like to remind everyone that personal fireworks are prohibited on Woodley Island and in the Old Town area of the City of Eureka by the Eureka Municipal Code, Section 92.08. The code states:

"No person shall store, sell, use, discharge, ignite, or set off any fireworks on Woodley Island and in the Old Town Area of the City of Eureka. For purposes of this ordinance, the Old Town area is defined as the area North of Fourth Street to the Bay, West of M Street and East of Commercial Street, inclusive.

Fireworks found in prohibited areas will be subject to confiscation and the owner or user of the fireworks may be subject to citation. Failure to comply with this ordinance is an infraction. Failure to comply with an Order and Notice as provided in Section 92.99 of the Eureka Municipal Code may be charged as either an infraction or a misdemeanor."

Personal fireworks are allowed in other areas of the City of Eureka and the Greater Eureka Area. We urge you to celebrate safely. The public is reminded:

Battalion Chief Chris Emmons

- Use only California State Fire Marshal approved safe and sane fireworks.
- Follow the instructions on the fireworks, and provide close adult supervision for children.
- Use fireworks in a clear area away from buildings, grass, and brush.
- If a firework fails to ignite properly, do not approach the device immediately. If the device does not ignite in a reasonable amount of time, place the device into a bucket of water.
- Provide clear access on streets for emergency vehicles.

Pick up your trash. Place all used fireworks in a bucket of water prior to placing them into the trash.

Humboldt Bay Fire invites everyone to spend the day in Old Town, and you will be welcome to enjoy the evening's public fireworks display. Remember, attendees may not bring fireworks to Old Town or Woodley Island. Enjoy the festivities, and celebrate safely this Fourth of July!!!



Where In The World?

Humboldt Bay Fire covers approximately 57 square miles of area including the City of Eureka and Greater Eureka area. Within that area we have thousands of commercial and residential addresses we have jurisdictional responsibility for. Many of those addresses are in rural areas and are down long, private roads or driveways. Often we are dispatched to an address in a rural area and have difficulty finding those addresses. Sometimes the roads are unmarked or may have multiple mailboxes at the end of the road with no numbers on them. The engine companies or ambulance then have to drive down roads or driveways that may split many times and end up at the wrong location. Finding a place to turn a large fire apparatus around and hunt for the correct location is not easy. This wastes valuable time that may be needed to extinguish



a growing fire or provide life-saving medical treatment.

What can you do to help us help you? If you live in the Humboldt Bay Fire jurisdiction, please have your address numbers painted on your curb in a contrasting background. For instance, a white background with black numbers aids us both during the day and at night. Also, ensure that your structure, whether a business or residential, is clearly marked with numbers on the building. If the building is an apartment complex, each unit should have identifying numbers or letters

on it. The numbers should be at least 4 inches tall and contrast with the background. Reflective numbers or letters always help at night as well.

Battalion Chief Chris Emmons

If you are down a long driveway or road that branches, ensure that there are address signs at the forks indicating which address is down the road. If your address numbers are on a mailbox at the end of the road, make sure the numbers are not faded or torn and are clearly visible. Ideally, large address signs are placed at the driveway in rural areas to clearly mark the access point. Many local home improvement stores can aid in obtaining numbers, letters or signage to identify the address.

These numbers not only help the fire department and ambulance, but they aid law enforcement agencies locate the respective addresses much faster. Delivery companies will also utilize these visible signs and address markings to ensure they are dropping off packages to the right location. If you have questions or would like to know the best location to post address numbers, please give us a call. Humboldt Bay Fire personnel would be happy to come to your location and assist you with determining the best location for installation, or where to paint the numbers. We can be reached at (707) 441-4000.

Type 3 Engines-What Are They And How Does HBF Use Them?

Fire engines are designed to transport firefighters, transport and pump water, and carry the necessary tools and equipment to perform the numerous tasks a firefighter performs. Fire engines are categorized by several factors including fire pump size (output measured in gallons per minute), water tank capacity, quantity and size of fire hose, and the number of personnel who respond with the apparatus. FEMA classifies Fire engines numerically as Type 1 through Type 6.

The majority of HBF's fleet are "Type 1" engines, designed for structural firefighting in an urban/suburban environment. These engines carry 500 gallons of water, and when connected to a fire hydrant are capable of delivering over of 1500 gallons of water per minute through fire hoses.

In addition, HBF owns two Type 3 engines. These apparatus are 4-wheel drive, have a shorter wheelbase, are designed to travel over steep and rugged terrain, and are specifically designed to fight wildfires. For HBF they serve two purposes. First, they enable us to respond to and effectively fight wildland fires in our district's rural areas, including the newly formed public access areas of the McKay Tract. In addition, during times when the Cal Fire Humboldt/Del Norte Ranger Unit has committed their Type 3 engines to state-wide incidents, our firefighters will staff a HBF Type 3 engine to provide coverage to a local Cal Fire station. During last year's wildland fire season it was not uncommon to see one of our engines covering Trinidad or Klamath fire stations and respond to incidents county-wide.

This is a mutually beneficial relationship. An HBF engine, staffed with three firefighters, provides

needed coverage at a Cal Fire station. In return, we receive reimbursement for use of the apparatus and personnel, including backfill overtime needed to cover the HBF fire station vacated when personnel respond in the Type 3 engine. Also, our firefighters receive additional exposure to wildland firefighting tactics which improves our ability to address HBF wildland fire incidents.

Recently we paid \$15,000 for a second used Type 3 fire engine. This engine can (and likely will) be utilized for Humboldt Bay Fire incidents, but its primary purpose is to be rented back to Cal Fire when their engines are either on assignment or out of service but they have Cal Fire personnel available to staff an engine. Essentially it is a "rental" engine, one which returns to HBF when Cal Fire no longer needs it.

In addition to engines, we also own and operate a "water tender" to fight fires in our rural response areas. Some regions call these apparatus "tankers". A water tender is designed to carry large amounts of water to areas where no hydrants are available. Our water tender carries 2000 gallons of water. In California use of the term "tanker" is not a good idea because the term also refers to Cal Fire/ US Forest Service fixed wing aircraft which drop fire retardant onto wildland fires. Requesting a "tanker" when you really need a "tender" may result in some embarrassment plus a need to write the infamous "fire chief form letter" which begins, "Dear Chief, no one was more surprised than I to need two additional *water tenders* for my fire but

Battalion Chief Chris Jelinek



HBF's Water Tender at the scene of a vegetation fire near Martin's Ferry, June 20th

accidentally order air tankers, which responded and were seen flying overhead ready to make drops! Please accept my sincere and abject apologies for this egregious error....

This year, due to regional drought conditions, our water tender is routinely requested to assist Cal Fire with wildland fire incidents. As with the Type three engine, HBF receives reimbursement for the water tender's apparatus and personnel when it responds to these incidents.

As the Humboldt Bay Fire mission statements states, we are, "Committed to community service through leadership, vision, and integrity." The use of our apparatus and personnel to support local and state-wide mutual aid efforts is yet another example of how we embody these values and do our absolute best to make our citizens proud.



Firefighter In Focus



Kathi Hendricks worked with pleasure at the Humboldt No. 1 Fire District for 20 years, and

Executive Secretary Kathi Hendricks

continues happily as Executive Secretary for Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority. That is going to end, as she retires July 1, 2015. She will have to find her pleasure at home, with her husband and pets. And rocks! It surely won't be as interesting on a daily basis as working for the fire department. Every day brings a new learning experience, from Acronyms, too many to learn; to the varied response calls in different Zones in the greater Eureka area.

As Executive Secretary, she works directly for the Fire Chief and the Board of Directors. She is the person who answered the phone at HFD #1, and helped you with your questions, or sometimes, complaints. She has always tried to help resolve problems, and not contribute to them. She has enjoyed the interaction with residents of the local area, and often has said that this is as 'grass roots' as you can get in a political government. She has had the pleasure of working directly with the public, with the Board of Directors, four truly great Fire Chiefs, all the

firefighters, and now the larger staff of the Joint Powers Authority. She says they are very symbiotic relationships, making work as fulfilling and fun as can be, considering the often tragic nature of the business.

She is now behind the scenes, usually. Her focus is keeping the books and records for the Joint Powers Authority, and training the next Executive Secretary, Jenna Harris. She leaves the fire family with some woe, but also much enthusiasm for a relaxing future, spending time with her family including her husband Dennis, their son and his new bride, parents, brothers, sister and her husband's family.

Life won't be boring, but it won't be as lively, I think.

Arson Awareness

Over the last year Humboldt Bay Fire and neighboring fire agencies have seen an increase in intentionally set fires. Some of these fires have caused significant property damage and injuries to our firefighters.

At Humboldt Bay Fire we investigate every fire we are called to. We classify the cause of all of those fires. The causes of fires can only be classified in four categories; accidental (where it is not an intentional act to spread fire where it should not be), natural (i.e. lightning), undetermined (whenever the cause cannot be proven to an acceptable level of certainty), and incendiary (intentionally ignited in which the person igniting the fire knows the fire should not be ignited.)

"Incendiary" is the cause that is most commonly associated with the phrase "arson". The category in the California Penal Code defining "arson" is specific, however, there are other crimes associated with fire that can be considered as "reckless fire setting". Those are also punishable by jail or prison time, depending on the circumstances.

When we investigate a fire we have to establish an area or point of origin and then determine what caused the fire. If the fire was determined to be "incendiary", we then look at the totality of the events leading to the fire to determine if it fits the crime of "arson" or "reckless fire setting". Many of the investigations are classified as "undetermined" as we are unable to prove with certainty what actually caused the fire, or the intent when the fire was ignited.

However, even though many fires are undetermined, we can still increase our awareness and take action to prevent the opportunity for "human caused" fires to occur. By following these security tips, you can help to reduce the chance of someone setting a fire maliciously in your area.

External Security Tips for Prevention Arson

1. Illuminate the exterior and entrances.
2. Use motion-activated lighting near doors and windows.
3. Keep shrubbery and trees trimmed so the building can be observed by passing patrols.
4. If in a rural setting, ensure crops are far enough away to allow proper illumination of the area.
5. Do not allow signs to block the view of the building.
6. Many buildings have basement entries that are hidden from view. These should be secured with locking, ground-level doors when the building is not in use.
7. Ladders, external stairways, and fire escapes allowing access to the roof should be secured.
8. Consider fencing the areas or sides that are not readily visible to patrols or neighbors.
9. Securing dumpsters and trash receptacles to prevent access to the contents.

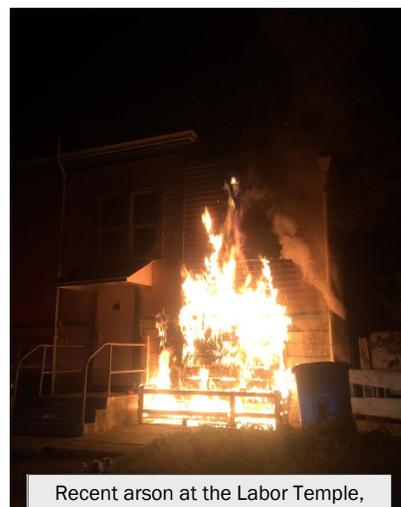
Community Awareness

1. Keep community leaders informed of problems.
2. Be aware of individuals who may be disgruntled or likely to cause damage to property through arson or vandalism.
3. Be aware that vandalism may precede arson
4. Open avenues of communication with fire and law enforcement officials regarding fire safety and security.
5. Promote neighborhood watches and educate the neighbors with the lighting arrangements (motion lights, etc.).
6. Educate neighbors on recognizing unusual activities.
7. Encourage neighbors to make note of strangers spending time in the neighborhood, either on foot or in vehicles.
8. Write down the license plate numbers of suspicious vehicles and inform the proper authorities.

Battalion Chief Ed Laidlaw

Remember, all fires start small. Arson is not just a threat to property. It's a threat to the community!!!!

Please contact Humboldt Bay Fire at (707) 441-4000 if you would like more information on how to make your homes and businesses safer from this fire threat.



Recent arson at the Labor Temple, 840 E Street, early morning of May 8th

CPR Classes (707) 441-4000

CPR and AED for Adults, Children, and Infants \$30

- July 14, 2015, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- July 28, 2015, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- August 11, 2015, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- September 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
- September 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

CPR, AED, and First Aid for Adults \$60

- August 8, 2015, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.