HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

In Memory



The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it. - Thucydides



John Earp (1947 – 2023)



John Earp was a founding member of the Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Department. He responded to many fire and medical calls every year, he also helped with trainings, fundraisers and was a mentor to us all. John loved being on the Fire Department helping people in their time of need. He is greatly missed by everyone.



Robin Newman (1951 – 2023)

Robin served faithfully with the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department from 1992 – 2023 and held the positions of firefighter, company secretary/treasurer, lieutenant, and captain for Company # 4 during his tenure.





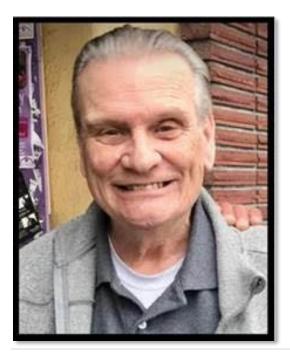
Mel Berti (1939 – 2023)

Mel was a volunteer fireman for the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department for 52 years. He then went on to serve as a Commissioner on the Board of Directors for the Fortuna Fire Protection District.

Brian Harper (1957 – 2023)

Brian was a dedicated member of the Redway Fire Protection District for many years. His natural leadership abilities brought him to the position of Assistant Chief. Brian was dedicated to the idea of personal participation in building our community and was a volunteer with many organizations including his many years of service as a board member at Heart of the Redwoods Community Hospice. He was deeply loved by his family, firefighters, and the community.





Jerry Lemon (1942-2023)

Long time member of Humboldt #1 Fire Protection District from 1969 to his retirement as Assistant Chief in 1990. He also served the County Fire agencies as a member of the Arson Task Force and Training Officers Group.

Jim Ober (1948-2023)

Jim was an Honorary Member of the Scotia Battalion. He will always be remembered with much love





Robert Eugene Hatten (1956-2022)

Bob joined the Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department in 1978, where he dedicated 22 years of his life, receiving Honorary fireman of the year for 2020. He will be honored and remembered for his service to his community.

Albert Mela (1922-2022)

Honorary Member of the Rio Dell Battalion. He will be missed by many.





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Acronyms

ALS	Advanced Life Support
ARFF	Aircraft Rescue Firefighting
AFFF	Aqueous Film-Forming Foam
AED	Automated External Defibrillator
BLS	Basic Life Support
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
CSD	Community Services District
CAFS	Compressed Air Foam System
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
EMS	Emergency Medical Service
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
FFP	Federal Fire Policy
FPD	Fire Protection District
GPM	Gallons per minute
LAFCo	Local Agency Formation Committee
Measure Z	Public Safety/Essential Services Measure (half-cent sales tax)
NFPA	National Fire Protection Association
OES	Office of Emergency Services
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
SCBA	Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus
TRT	Technical Rescue Team
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
VFC	Volunteer Fire Company
VFD	Volunteer Fire Department

This report documents the level of fire and emergency medical services (EMS/rescue services) available to the residents of Humboldt County in 2023. The results will support the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association (HCFCA) and its associated chapters as they work to enhance coordination, communication, and standardization among fire and emergency services providers throughout the county. The report begins with a summary of the role played by the fire chiefs' associations in Humboldt County followed by a page dedicated to each local service provider, organized by Humboldt County Supervisorial District. Local, state, and federal fire service provider pages include department-level response statistics describing the 2023 calendar year. Information about emergency medical services, technical rescue, and disaster response groups are included as well. This report may also be used as a directory—contact details generally reflect current information as of this report's publication in February 2025.

Local fire services are provided year-round in Humboldt County through a variety of different organizations including fire related districts, Tribes, cities, joint powers authorities, nonprofit organizations, contract agencies, and informal associations. Given the diverse range of community characteristics and emergency service needs throughout the county, each fire-service organization provides an emergency response and deployment system that reflects its constituents' expectations, needs, and local risks, within its revenue and support constraints.

Humboldt County's large and rural nature presents several inherent challenges for emergency response. Many roads are unmarked or incorrectly identified; are in poor condition; are too narrow for emergency response vehicles; or provide no alternate means of ingress/egress. The terrain is also rugged and response to remote areas can be slow-going. A lack of cellular reception and internet access can make emergency response that much more difficult. These infrastructural challenges are set in the context of the wildland-urban interface where rural homesteads, often lacking in adequate defensible space, abut large swaths of forest- and grassland that can carry an ignition into communities or into the wildlands beyond. Within this challenging landscape, fire service providers strive to meet the needs of their respective communities while working to overcome their own organizational challenges—many of which are detailed in the following pages of this report.

Service Standards and Common Challenges

This report recognizes that improvements continue to be made in most local fire protection organizations' ability to deploy fire and EMS/rescue resources efficiently, effectively, and safely. However, these organizations continue to experience a high degree of variability in their training levels, amount and quality of their equipment, and number of firefighting personnel at their disposal. Such differences make it challenging to identify level of service standards that are realistically achievable for all local fire service providers. This is slowly being addressed by updating standards to consider pragmatic expectations by area type (e.g., rural, suburban, or urban).

Many local fire departments continue to face common challenges, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Insufficient rosters of volunteer firefighters and an inability to maintain adequate volunteer recruitment and retention programs and incentives.
- Inadequate local training facilities, levels, and types of training opportunities, including fire academy (particularly with state accreditation), driver-operator training, and other ongoing skill building.
- Ever increasing mandatory requirements and standards
- Limited administrative capacity to address growing organizational requirements.
- Limited pre-fire planning resources such as response-area maps and pre-fire attack plans
- Barriers to seamless coordination and communication

- A lack of capital to cover growing expenses, including:
 - The replacement of aging safety equipment and apparatus
 - Dispatch fees and communication infrastructure improvements
 - Insurance and worker's compensation.
 - o Training
 - Maintaining and establishing fire stations
 - Maintaining goodwill response services outside of jurisdictional boundaries

A top need identified by local service providers is a more robust and ongoing volunteer recruitment and retention strategy. All local fire departments in the county depend fully or partially on volunteers. Many departments indicated that recruiting and retaining these volunteers is their biggest challenge. A shrinking roster of firefighters makes it difficult to maintain current levels of service. This challenge includes:

- Ever increasing training and performance demands on volunteers,
- An increasing volume of calls that put volunteers in dangerous situations, threatening their physical safety and mental health,
- Uncertainty about a stable local economy, and
- Limited community awareness and support.

The challenges listed above are exacerbated by the fact that significant developed and populated areas of the county are located outside the boundaries of any fire related district responsible for providing community fire protection and rescue services. Fire related districts were formed to provide structure fire and all-risk services within a specific jurisdictional boundary where services are supported by revenue from a combination of taxes, fees, and fundraising. Many of these jurisdictional boundaries were created as far back as the 1930's. Since that time, neighborhoods, scattered subdivisions, and rural residential development have emerged outside of district boundaries. Fire related districts and volunteer fire companies (VFCs) not associated with districts are commonly dispatched and respond to calls within most of these areas. However, they are not legally responsible for or obligated to provide such service and do not receive funding from property taxes, a special tax, or an assessment to do so. Providing what is commonly referred to as "goodwill service" to these out-of-district areas can put additional strain on already overburdened resources. Furthermore, property owners within the district and district commissioners/board members may question why the services funded through taxes collected from within the district's jurisdiction are benefiting out of district residents, particularly if a special tax or benefit assessment is collected specifically to support fire protection.

HCFCA Strategic Planning and Progress

None of the challenges facing local service providers will be easily overcome, but the HCFCA and its associated chapters have made steady progress. An important milestone was reached when the HCFCA completed the <u>2019 –</u> <u>2024 Strategic Plan</u>. The Plan is designed to guide continued improvement under a shared vision for the future state of the organization and articulates key initiatives based on two primary strategic goals: 1) "Collaborate with the County" and 2) "Clarify Communication". Increasing the capacity of the HCFCA will help the organization play a positive role in addressing many of the department-specific challenges detailed above.

The Public Safety/Essential Services Sales Tax (commonly referred to as Measure Z) continues to provide much needed revenue to support efforts to bring all service providers up to a common standard commensurate with demand in their respective areas. To that end, the funds have supported dispatch services, the delivery of training,

the construction of or improvements to facilities such as fire stations and training towers, upgraded safety equipment, fire hydrant repairs, and more.

Measure Z funds have also been used to pay for services provided to a large out-of-district area between the Blue Lake, Willow Creek, and Kneeland fire protection districts. This area includes the HWY 299 corridor between Willow Creek and Blue Lake where an average of nearly 60 calls per year occurred between the years 2010 and 2015 (years for which data is readily available). Over 50 percent of these calls are traffic collisions. The number of calls increased nearly every year, with an average increase of 20 percent per year. Measure Z support for providing services to this "no man's land" was intended to be a temporary arrangement acting as a stopgap while an appropriate long-term and sustainable solution is implemented. As the amount of Measure Z funding decreases and the HCFCA prioritizes how it is invested. Consequently, a sunset was put on these stopgap payments and the HCFCA asked the impacted districts to seriously evaluate other options, ranging from expanding district boundaries where appropriate, working with other agencies, including the County and CAL FIRE to identify solutions, to the possibility of being forced to limit response to the areas outside of their jurisdictional boundaries. This work is ongoing.

To help address fire service and jurisdictional challenges, the HCFCA commits a portion of their fiscal year allocation of Measure Z funding to provide ongoing support for countywide fire services sustainability planning. Planning is guided by a committee of the HCFCA in collaboration, where applicable, with a Fire Services Ad Hoc committee of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors which was formed in April 2019. Grant funds are used to support a technical assistance planning team composed of staff members from Humboldt County Public Works, who are affiliated with the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council as well as key staff from the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)/Planwest Partners. Strategies are continually sought to create new fire districts where appropriate and feasible, and to expand the boundaries of existing districts in others. The HCFCA is working closely with the county and property owners to ensure these changes are backed by a sustainable source of revenue. In 2019, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors approved a strategy to permanently transfer property tax revenue at varying levels to fire related districts that are willing to annex out-of-district areas and to fire companies that are willing to become districts. Property tax revenue is the main source of revenue for most fire related districts. Tax exchange agreements are being offered by the County until April 2027 on a sliding scale contingent upon a set of specific expectations fire service providers are willing and able to meet. The tax exchange agreements and meeting of specific expectations are intended to support are willing to source of revenue for most fire related and meeting of specific expectations are intended to support are willing and able to meet. The tax exchange agreements and meeting of specific expectations are intended to support efforts to:

- Match locations where services are being demanded with jurisdictional boundaries (primarily where there is existing development),
- Build regional fire service capacity, and
- Address service and funding needs on a countywide basis.

The first effort to benefit from this opportunity was the consolidation of Redcrest, Shively, and Scotia volunteer departments with the Rio Dell Fire Protection District through the strategic use of annexation. This achievement is precedent setting, and others have been incentivized to take similar steps. For instance, the Garberville Fire Protection District annexation/consolidation, and the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District formation, both approved by voters in 2023, are successful examples of the tax exchange agreement providing needed sustainable revenue to these departments.

In 2023 the HCFCA invested over \$83,700 of their Measure Z grant funds into achieving fire service planning goals. This investment supported technical assistance provided by the planning team, LAFCo annexation and district formation application fees, and State Board of Equalization (BOE) mapping fees associated with adjusting

jurisdictional boundaries to match service areas. These are professional services and fee costs that the beneficiary fire departments didn't have to pay and may not have been able to cover out of their own budgets.

- Over \$12,700 in LAFCO application fees covered for Arcata and Garberville fire protection district annexations and Salmon Creek fire company for fire protection district formation.
- \$12,300 in BOE mapping fees covered for the formalization of Briceland, Bridgeville, Fruitland Ridge, Telegraph Ridge, Garberville, and Salmon Creek fire protection district boundary adjustments.

In 2023, in addition to technical support for annexations and formations, the planning team developed tools for a fire related district toolbox, including guides that local fire related districts have been asking for; coordinated the development of the HCFCA Annual Report and refined the associated <u>Humboldt County Fire Services Web Map</u>; continued to address technical questions from service providers seeking solutions in the North Bay and Redwood/Maple Creek study areas; assisted with annual charge list submittals to the county Auditor/Controller for districts that maintain special taxes to ensure accurate revenue capture; successfully negotiated with the Board of Equalization (BOE) to reduce the per boundary cost of creating new tax rate areas (TRAs) for fire related districts completing annexations or formations through this planning effort; and continued to learn from other models throughout the state and beyond that could be used to inform how to develop a countywide community fire and rescue services structure that is more efficient, effective, and sustainable. With funding from Measure Z, this planning work continues to make progress towards changes that are or will support the sustainable delivery and improvement of fire and rescue services to communities throughout the county.

As part of the Annual Report process, the HCFCA collects and maintains a comprehensive fire agency contact database. You can access or update contact information in the HCFCA Fire Agency Directory at: <u>humboldtgov.org/FireDirectory</u>

*Note that the online Fire Agency Directory lists the current contacts, while this report lists the chiefs and officers of the year of the report.

Local Fire Protection Map Description

The map on the following page illustrates the boundaries of different types of local fire and rescue service providers throughout Humboldt County. For an interactive map, visit: <u>www.humboldtgov.org/FireServicesMap</u>.

- **Structure Locations** are shown as black dots. Generally, the highest demand for fire and EMS/rescue services is in areas of high density and along highway corridors and primary roads.
- The special district service providers are identified in the map legend as "**District**" and are shown on the map in green. These districts were formed to provide services within a specific jurisdictional boundary and are supported by revenue from a combination of taxes, fees, grants, and fundraising. Many of these jurisdictional boundaries were created as far back as the 1930's. Since that time, neighborhoods, scattered subdivisions, and rural residential development have emerged outside of district boundaries. This newer development requires year-round fire protection and emergency services, which it receives in a variety of ways.
- There are still many areas outside the boundaries of an established district that receive local fire and EMS/rescue services from district resources. This type of uncompensated service, often referred to as "goodwill service", is identified in the map legend as "Goodwill Response Area" and is shown on the map in red.
- Many populated areas outside the boundaries of an established district receive community fire and EMS/rescue services from a volunteer fire company (VFC); VFCs are not affiliated with a district and, consequently, do not receive direct tax revenue. The survival of VFCs depends on revenue generated from community donations, fundraisers, and grants. This type of service area is illustrated on the map in yellow and identified in the map legend as "Non-District Response Area".
- Locations primarily served by **Tribal** fire and EMS/rescue agencies and organizations are shown on the map in purple.
 - The local service needs of the Hoopa and Upper Yurok Reservations are provided by a combination of Tribal fire departments and volunteer companies at varying levels. Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue is a VFC that provides services to the Hoopa Valley Reservation. The Yurok Volunteer Fire Department is a local fire company which, when active, provides fire and EMS/rescue services to the Upper Yurok Reservation. An update to the Yurok Volunteer Fire Department page is not included in this report because its activity status is unknown. In addition, the Hoopa and Yurok Tribes, each has a chartered stand-alone fire department that is solely operated and managed by their respective Tribe and are both national resources responding across the nation to assist local, state, and federal agencies when requested.
 - Other tribal communities receive local fire and EMS/rescue services in a variety of ways.
 - Some rancherias are within the jurisdictional boundaries of an existing special district. This includes the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria and the Table Bluff Rancheria (served by Loleta FPD) and the Big Lagoon Rancheria (served by County Service Area #4-CAL FIRE Amador).

Others are located within "Goodwill Response Areas" and receive service from neighboring fire related districts without charge; contract for services from a neighboring district; and/or receive services from a non-tribal VFC and/or their own Tribal fire crews. This includes the Trinidad Rancheria (County Service Area #4/CAL FIRE Amador, the City of Trinidad Fire Department, and Westhaven VFC); the Blue Lake Rancheria (some tribal resources with response support from the Blue Lake FPD); and the Karuk Tribe (Orleans VFC and a fire and fuels crew supported by the Karuk Department of Natural Resources). The Karuk fire and fuels program operates in Orleans (Humboldt) as well as Happy Camp and Yreka (Siskiyou County). The associated Wildland Fire Crew is dispatched by the Klamath National Forest for any federal emergency and reimbursed through the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Karuk program is primarily based outside of Humboldt and is not considered a primary local fire and rescue resource in this Report.

Federal and State Fire Protection Map Description

Under a cooperative agreement, federal and state agencies have exchanged wildfire responsibilities in specific areas. These areas are known as Direct Protection Areas, or DPAs (see the map on page xvi for an illustration). Wildfire protection on most Federal Responsibility Areas ("FRA" – shown in green on the map) is provided by federal agencies and the Hoopa Tribe on the Hoopa Valley Reservation, except for the King Range National Conservation Area and other scattered Bureau of Land Management lands including the Headwaters Forest Reserve, which is in the DPA of CAL FIRE (red crosshatch). Additionally, the communities of Willow Creek and Orleans are within the DPA of the Six Rivers National Forest for wildfires (gray crosshatch), even though these communities are in State Responsibility Area ("SRA"– shown in orange on the map). State and federal firefighters also respond to a broad array of emergencies beyond wildfire— depending on their availability—with their primary responsibility being protecting federal and state wildland areas. Tribal fire stations are shown on the map in purple. The Hoopa Tribe is one of only two Indian Reservations in California that have a legal DPA for wildland fires on their lands. It is recognized that the fire departments, operated and managed by Tribal governments, are a national resource. However, these departments are introduced in more detail above in the Local Fire Protection Map Description and within their respective pages below.

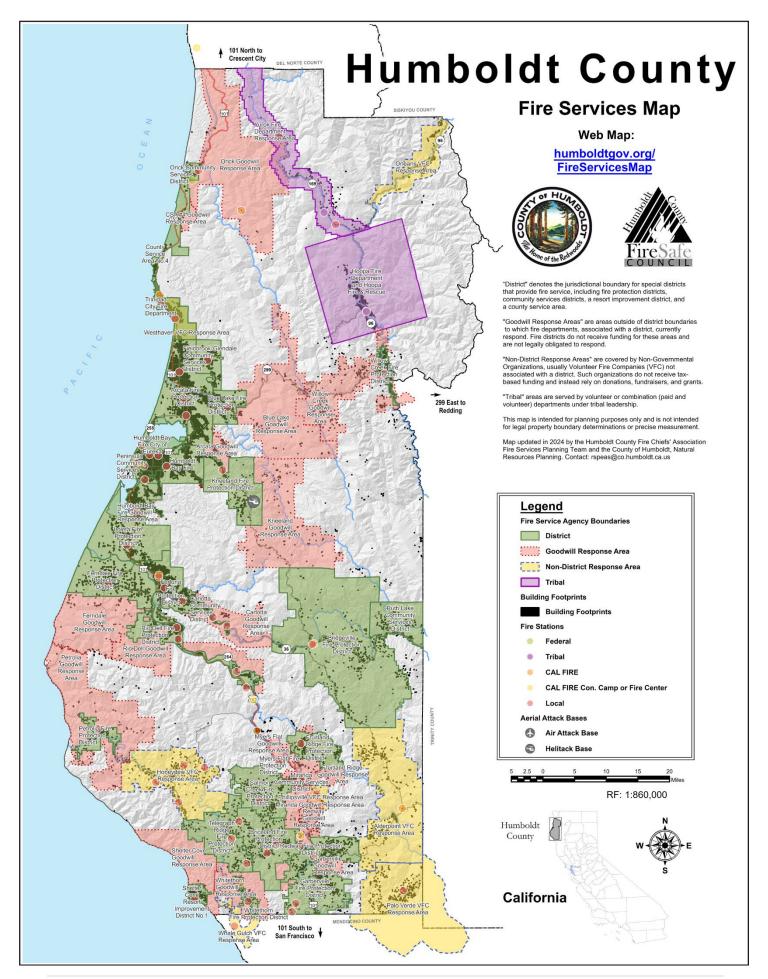
Local fire service in Humboldt County, although primarily responsible for community fire protection, plays a pivotal role in wildfire management within the SRA and FRA. Local firefighters train and are equipped for wildfire response, often being called to assist CAL FIRE during wildfires. Local firefighting resources respond from over fifty locations throughout the county, so they can be well situated to supplement CAL FIRE, which may have a longer response time. Local firefighters are frequently the first at scene and able to assume command of the incident, provide initial assessment, and initiate suppression actions until CAL FIRE arrives. This helps keep the fires to a manageable size. Many local fire organizations provide station coverage for CAL FIRE when they are called away to wildfires outside of the county. During station coverage assignments, local firefighters fill CAL FIRE's wildfire management role.

CAL FIRE also hires a local-government Type-3 Engine Strike Teams composed of several local fire organizations to supplement their resources during wildfire events, both inside and outside the county. Local fire department equipment is also rented by the state and operated by CAL FIRE personnel when needed. The local fire service financially benefits from this arrangement, both to the participating fire department and individual firefighters, and by circulating the funds into the local economy. Indirect benefits to local firefighters, including volunteers, include gaining valuable wildfire management experience, which also benefits local communities by developing

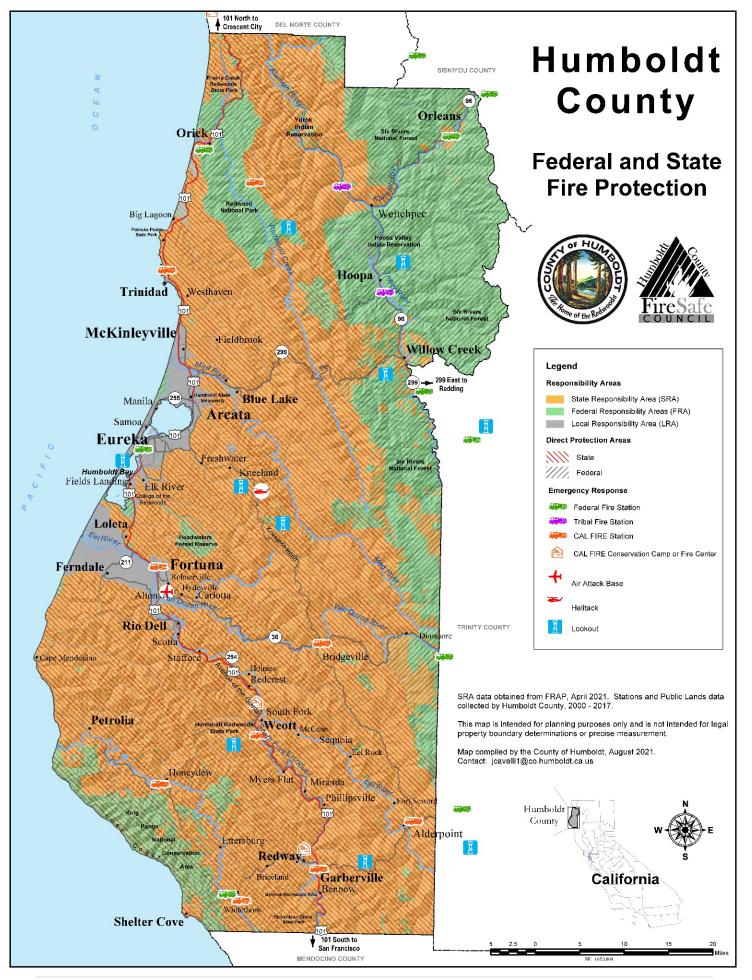
more confident, capable local firefighters. Firefighters learn about wildfire management strategies, emergency radio communications, working together, training needs, and the physical demands and expectations required by CAL FIRE and the USFS. This experience increases the ability of local firefighters to organize resources quickly and efficiently, should a large wildfire event happen here in Humboldt.

Only a small portion of the county is classified as Local Responsibility Area (**"LRA" – shown in gray on the map**). Most local fire agencies contain SRA lands within their jurisdictional boundaries; many are made up entirely of SRA lands. Fire related districts are responsible for structural fire protection and wildland fires in the LRA. CAL FIRE is responsible for wildfires in the SRA. CAL FIRE also assists local districts with the management of wildfires in the LRA based on mutual-aid agreements.



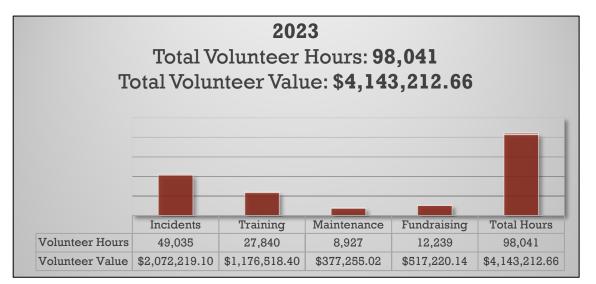


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Volunteer Hours and Incident Response

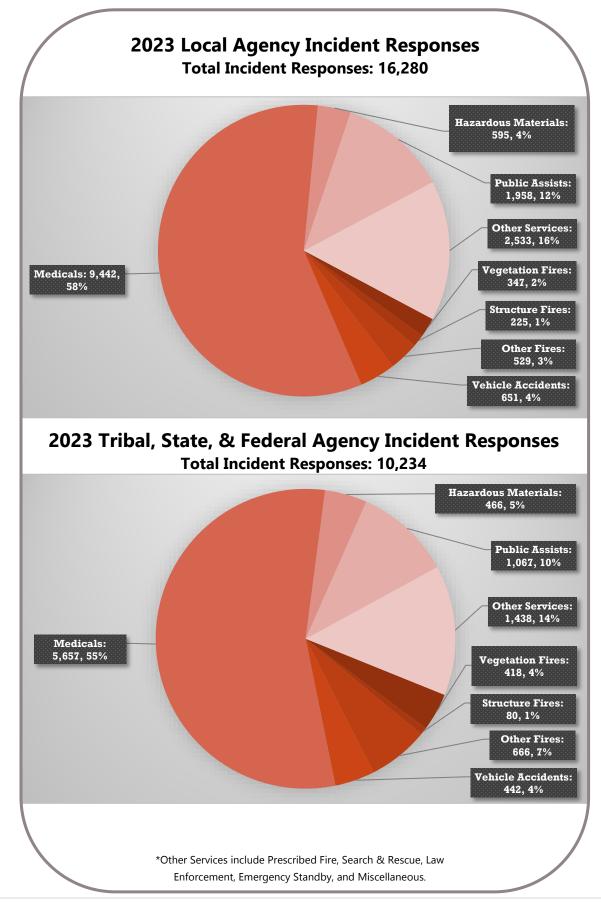
Volunteer hours contributed by all local service providers are summarized by various categories including time spent responding to incidents, training, maintaining equipment and facilities, and fundraising. A total of **98,041** volunteer hours were reported in 2023. This is likely an underestimate of what is actually contributed by the hundreds of volunteers who support the network of active local fire departments, fire companies, and technical rescue groups in Humboldt County. The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates the hourly value of a firefighter in CA as \$42.26. It is important to note that calculated at this value, volunteer emergency responders have provided **\$4,143,212.66** in services to Humboldt County in 2023 alone. A review of the past annual reports will show that this is not unusual. This service must not be taken for granted, and instead should be seen as a valuable contribution provided by the fire and rescue agencies of Humboldt County for the purpose of providing the best possible emergency response possible, even when funding is inadequate.



Please note: Volunteer hours and the incident response data are sourced from the CAL FIRE CAD (computer-aided dispatch) system and from the agencies themselves. This year, special effort was taken to analyze the incoming report data. The process of data collection was reviewed, and suggested procedures are being developed to increase the accuracy and dependability of this data. The authors have confirmed that the process to confirm, synthesize, and filter the data is as functional as currently possible in order to get the best picture of the demand placed on Humboldt County fire organizations. It is hoped that the data collection will continue to improve, however, due to the nature of the complexities in collecting and reporting, the data may in some cases, over- or underestimate actual numbers.

Year	Veg. Fires	Struct. Fires	Other Fires:	Veh. Acc.	Medical	Haz/ Menace	Public Assists:	Others:	TOTALS:
2021	691	341	1,151	828	9,839	470	1,797	3,446	18,563
2022	305	281	964	717	9,895	456	2,536	2,620	17,774
2023	347	225	529	651	9,442	595	1,958	2,533	16,280

The chart above shows the incident statistics for the past three years. The following page provides graphic illustrations of types of responses provided during the 2023 calendar year. There are two pie charts—one for local agencies and one for state and federal agencies—which illustrate total 2023 fire service responses with percentages for each recorded category. It is interesting to note that, for local agency fire service calls, **58 percent** were medical emergency dispatches (including vehicle accidents). This underscores the fact that most of the local fire departments and companies provide "all-risk" protection which includes much more than fire response. Also worth noting is that a significant amount of these dispatches came from Humboldt County residents calling 911 for emergency help.



Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Associations: Working Together

Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association

President: Rick Nicholson Phone: 707-786-9909 Email: <u>rnicholson@ferndalefire.org</u> Vice President: David Vainuku Phone: 707-668-5765 Email: <u>blchief@suddenlinkmail.com</u>

Meetings: The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association meets from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on the 4th Wednesday of each month at various locations throughout the county, generally with a Zoom option.



The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association (Fire Chiefs) works hard to improve the level of service throughout the county by increasing coordination, communication, standardization, and support. The desire to work together to improve interoperability is the driving force behind the efforts of the Fire Chiefs. At their monthly meetings, the group receives regular reports from committees and/or subgroups of the Association including fire instructors/trainers, fire prevention officers and a fire/arson investigation unit. Cal OES, CAL FIRE, Cal Chiefs, County OES, North Coast EMS, the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC), and others as available also

contribute valuable information. These meetings provide a venue for sharing information about training, prevention, standards, legislation, grants, and new initiatives and innovations. Collaboration with these and other agencies has enabled the growth of productive and effective relationships that have proven to be beneficial to all parties.

The Fire Chiefs coordinate and sustain several programs and innovations that work together to support an everincreasing level of fire service in Humboldt County. In order to provide quick and adequate response to fires, the Fire Chiefs developed and maintain a countywide mutual aid agreement in the form of a memorandum of understanding (MOU). The MOU was made and entered into by and between all local fire service providers in the county as well as CAL FIRE. It states that the equipment, facilities, and trained personnel of each fire department are available to the other participants in the agreement on an as requested basis, which allows for a quick, decisive dispatch of resources. This agreement has been put to the test many times since its inception and has proven to be of great value.

The on-going collaboration between the many fire agencies in Humboldt County has resulted in the development and adoption of standardized response and safety protocols which include firefighter training standards, personnel accountability, roadway response/traffic safety, and reporting of "close call" incidents which include illness, injuries, near miss and LODD (line of duty death) and BHO (Butane Hash Oil) Lab response. The Association also maintains a countywide protocol to address CMCI (Criminal Multi-Casualty Incidents) pertaining to an active shooter in which the fire service, law enforcement, and EMS (Emergency Medical Services) all play a role.

The theme of "working together" has also become particularly ingrained over the last few years of Measure Z funding. By facilitating acquisition of this funding, the Fire Chiefs' Association has shown support for rural fire agencies in need of personal protective equipment, newer apparatus, fire hose, and sustainability planning. The County Fire Service faces numerous challenges that are inherent in the rural nature of the area in which we live. We continually struggle with financial hardship, volunteer recruitment and retention, and providing services beyond jurisdictional boundaries; however, the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs and the departments they serve, are determined to continue to work with the Board of Supervisors and County staff to find solutions. As Humboldt County's Fire Service, we do not take lightly the responsibility of providing high quality emergency services to our communities and we appreciate and value the opportunity to provide these services.



The Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1897 and has a rich and long history.

Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association

President: Chief Nick Pape Shelter Cove Fire Department 707-986-7507 nick@sheltercove-ca.gov Vice President: Chief Kai Ostrow Secretary: Assist. Chief Tanner Speas Treasurer: Chief Chris Fisher

Meetings: The Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association meets at 6:00 pm on the 4th Monday of every month at the Redway Fire training classroom.



The Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association (SHFCA) is a venue for 18 fire and emergency response agencies from the Southern Humboldt region to collaborate for preparedness. The SHFCA is a chapter of the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association, a 501(c)3, and functions as the primary central organization of the combined Southern Humboldt resources. The initial purpose of the SHFCA was to provide a stronger voice for fire departments that would help bring more training opportunities to the southern part of the county, increase communication between local departments and with CAL FIRE, and create a stronger fire department identification and numbering system. Successful implementation of those goals over the last 20 years has grown the SHFCA to include representatives from the Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council, Humboldt County Fire Safe Council, Red Cross, Southern Humboldt Emergency Preparedness Team (SHEPT), County Radio Dispatch Co-op, CAL-EMA, Humboldt County OES, and other emergency preparedness groups.

The SHFCA sponsors the Southern Humboldt County Technical Rescue Team (SHCTRT). The SHCTRT is comprised of firefighters from the local departments who specialize in rope, water, and wilderness rescue. Team members are highly dedicated firefighters who train and respond to rescues in addition to the normal training and duties of their respective fire departments.

In 2023, efforts with Senator McGuire to provide state funding to Southern Humboldt and Northern Mendocino proved successful. This funding will provide 5 brand new Type 6 engines to departments in Southern Humboldt. It was an identified strategic objective to assure that every department in the region would be able to obtain a new Type 6. For too long, local emergency response agencies have been forced to use old and potentially unsafe apparatus due to funding and support shortcomings. Also, in 2023 the SHFCA received Technical Assistance from the North Coast Resource Partnership to develop an Administrative Assistance program. This program started with a Challenges and Needs assessment, and then an Administrative Assistance Strategic Plan was developed. This strategy identified the need for a shared regional fiscal entity and a feasibility study of a possible Southern Humboldt Joint Powers Agreement began.

Eel River Valley Fire Chiefs' Association

Todd Calvo, Carlotta CSD Rus Brown, Fortuna FPD: 707-725-5021 Dennis DelBiaggio, Ferndale FPD: 707-786-9909

Jeff Robison, Loleta FPD: 707-733-5407 Shane Wilson, Rio Dell FPD: 707-764-3329 Scott Katzdorn, Bridgeville FPD: 707-777-3244

The Eel River Valley (ERV) Fire Chiefs' Association represents nine volunteer fire agencies in six fire districts within the Eel River Valley consisting of Ferndale, Loleta, Fortuna, Carlotta, Bridgeville, Rio Dell Fire Protection District (Rio Dell, Redcrest, Scotia and Shively.)

The Chiefs meet quarterly to discuss and improve emergency response and training within the Eel River Valley and along Highway 36, east to Bridgeville. These discussions and planning sessions have led to various auto-aid agreements, communications plans, and fire pre-plans throughout the area. The recent expansion of the Rio Dell Fire Protection District which now includes Scotia, Shively, and Redcrest has enabled the group to see a successful working model that could likely be incorporated into a much bigger picture for all departments in the Valley Region. In addition, and currently in development is a "Shared Services Agreement" that is intended to allow these districts to share services on an as needed basis.

The ERV Chiefs are responsible for the development and direction of the Eel River Valley Technical Rescue Team. All departments utilize the ERV Fire Academy, an 80-hour basic firefighting course, to accomplish entry level firefighter training for new members. In addition, the group hosts annual courses for driver-operator and company officer.

The ERV training facility is now a reality and being utilized, it is centrally located in Fortuna and includes a Measure Z-funded, state-of-the-art training tower complete with live fire training burn rooms as well as many other props used for various firefighter training evolutions.

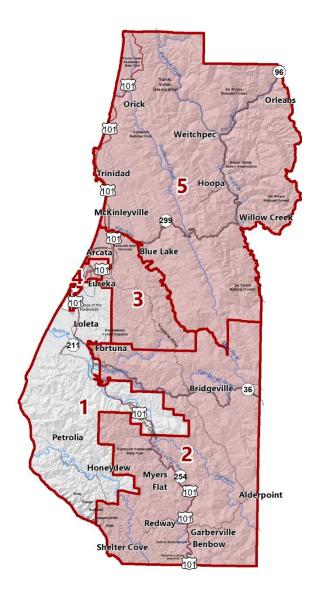
The ERV Chiefs continue to work towards the goal of improving and streamlining administrative and operational objectives, with the major focus being interoperability throughout the immediate area as well as supporting the Humboldt County Fire Chief's Association.



ERV Training Tower

Humboldt County First District Supervisor Rex Bohn

825 5th Street Eureka, California 95501 Phone: 707-476-2391



Fire Departments:

Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company Loleta Volunteer Fire Department Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department

Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department (FEN)

Chief 7300: Dennis DelBiaggio Asst. Chief: Rick Nicholson Asst. Chief: Jerry Lema 436 Brown Street PO Box 485 Ferndale, CA 95536 707-786-9909 chief@ferndalefire.org ferndalefire.org





The Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD) provides firefighting and medical services for the Ferndale Fire Protection District (FFPD). The FFPD is 44 square miles containing the City of Ferndale and outlying areas. FFPD also provides an all-hazards response to an additional 116 square miles adjacent to our district that is not protected by any neighboring fire districts. The FVFD was founded in 1897 and in 2023 the department will have 126 years of community service. For the year 2023 the department had 25 active members including a Chief, Two Assistant Chiefs and Company officers. The department's equipment and meeting hall is housed in two buildings, both on Brown Street. The historic Fire Hall, built in 1910 and a newer equipment bay across the street from the original hall.

FVFD has one Rescue Truck, two Type-1 engines, one Type-2 engine, two water tenders, a quick attack truck and two Polaris UTV's. The members of FVFD are dedicated to providing the best service to the community it serves by volunteering their time to answer all service requests and staying current on their training and fire protection skills. The department also maintains an active role in the community by hosting blood drives, prevention programs at the schools, lighting the community Christmas tree, and other outreach programs.

Challenges & Needs:

Maintaining a strong volunteer base with increasing training requirements and an increasing number of calls each year.



	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services				
4	2	8	3	175	23	36	6				
				-	Total Responses	S	257				
	Volunte	er Hours			Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Volunteer Auxiliary					
3,500	875	200	150	25 15		5					

*Due to the nature of available data, the incident responses reported above may over or underestimate actual responses.

Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company (HDV)

Chief 6500: Peter Marshall Asst. Chief: Lars Samuels

PO Box 74 Honeydew, CA 95545 707-499-2061

honeydew@asis.com www.honeydewfire.com





Established in 1987 as a 501c3 non-profit corporation, the Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company (HVFC) serves a response area of nearly 100 square miles. This rugged and isolated area presents challenges to wildland firefighting, structure defense, and the delivery of emergency medical and rescue services. To keep response times to a minimum, we maintain three strategically located fire stations, and are in the process of establishing a fourth in Panther Gap. We respond with a 6-wd water tender carrying 1,000 gallons, a 1967 Kaiser engine (200 gal. - Federal Excess Property Program 4wd from the Vietnam War era), and three 4wd Type 6 engines: a 2003 Ford F-550 (500 gal.), 2000 Ford F-450 (300 gal.), and a 2008 Ford F-550 (400 gal.). Our community is approximately 400 strong and has

consistently supported us financially. With their collaboration, we have constructed three first-rate single-purpose stations, the third adjacent to the CAL FIRE Mattole Station. Annually, HVFC has produced the "Roll on the Mattole," an all-day music, crafts, and family-fun fundraiser that includes the Mattole Wildland Firefighters' Challenge, though Covid 19 prevented our

holding the event in 2020 and 2021. HVFC has also collaborated with members of the local community to help make Honeydew a nationally recognized Firewise Community. Honeydew has been Firewise since 2011 and has, with our community's engagement, continued to maintain this status. The Fire Company is an Organizational Member of the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association, participating in several projects, assisting in the successful and beneficial burning of hundreds of acres, and gaining invaluable experience. We have collaborated in placing 6 rain-catchment water tanks at easy access points for fire water this year and will place more in 2024. We have also collaborated with Petrolia Fire to develop a family radio communication system for use in major incident information/evacuation communication when other methods fail.



Challenges & Needs:

Our community is small in population but large in area. Keeping our roster of volunteer firefighters and providing adequate training is always a challenge. New training requirements call for increased class time and costs. The cost of complete insurance coverage for our company and board of directors keeps us striving for grant funds and donations, which is constant and time-consuming. Raising money for the next newer fire truck competes for the money we raise each year. Completing the construction of the Panther Gap engine station is the primary focus for our fundraising now.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other				
Fires	Fires		Accidents		Menace	Assistance	Services				
6	0	1	2	16	2	2	2				
				-	Total Responses	S	31				
	Volunte	er Hours			Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer A		Aux	iliary				
450	1,500	1,400	3,000	14 20		0					



Loleta Volunteer Fire Department (LOL)

707-499-9747

567 Park St.

Chief 7500: Jeff Robison

The Loleta Volunteer Fire Department provides firefighting services to the Loleta Fire Protection District, which was formed in 1900 and currently has 21 active members. We have one paramedic, and we are registered as an Advanced Life Support (ALS) Department. We serve over 1,500 community members by utilizing the district's Type 1 Engine, two Type 2 Engines, one Type 3 Engine, one quick attack Gator with slide in pump and tank for off road use, and one water tender.

We are continuing to maintain operating funds but are researching and coming up with different avenues of funding. Measure Z has provided us with up-graded extrication tools which are interoperable with most departments in the county.

Challenges & Needs: We are still trying to recruit volunteers for our department. The core group that we have is strong but need for younger members for succession is a top priority.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services				
6	1	12	19	191	19	6	3				
		•		7	Fotal Responses	5	257				
	Volunteer Hours				Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxi	liary				
1,914	400	250	100	18 0)					

Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department (PET)

Chief 6600: Chris Gilda **Captain's:** Drew Barber Travis Howe Joseph Sandoval **Chief Medical Officer:** Tyler Safier 58 Sherman Street PO Box 169 Petrolia, CA 95558 707-629-3558 <u>PetroliaFire@frontiernet.net</u> <u>www.petroliafire.org</u>



Located in the remote Mattole Valley of Humboldt County, California, the Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) was founded in the early 1950's, and in 2013 established as a 501c3 non-profit organization. The primary functions of the volunteer-driven department include, but are not limited to, providing fire protection for district residents and their property, emergency medical services, hazardous materials containment and cleanup, fire suppression services and assisting in disaster relief efforts when appropriate with other governmental agencies. The PVFD has formal mutual aid agreements with Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department and Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company. We

also coordinate with Telegraph Ridge Fire Department, Rio-Dell, Shelter Cove, Eel River Tech Rescue, Southern Humboldt Chiefs Association, the local Cal Fire station, Bureau of Land Management, the US Coast Guard and the California Department of Forestry to provide search, rescue, medical and fire response services.



Our apparatus includes: one 2-wheel drive 2000 gallon water-tender, one 4-wheel drive 2000 gallon water tender, three type-3 engines, one type-1 engine, an ambulance-type medical rescue vehicle, an atv, and a side by side for medical rescue. The PVFD successfully raised enough money to buy a 4 wheel drive water tender. We welcomed 4 new volunteers into our ranks. Since 2011 we continue to be a Firewise Community. We've collaborated with the Southern Humboldt Chief's Association and the Office of Emergency Services to activate our station and firefighters for a couple severe weather events.

Challenges & Needs:

The biggest challenges Petrolia is facing is with recruitment and retention, as well as communications. Petrolia already has a small population and with there not being any jobs here, folks end up moving to Eureka or other outlying cities, part, or full time. Limiting the amount of certified and trained firefighters to respond to calls. We also have a very serious issue with our communications, our remoteness makes it very difficult to maintain good communications with our responders. Because of our older communications array, the only fix is a completely new system.

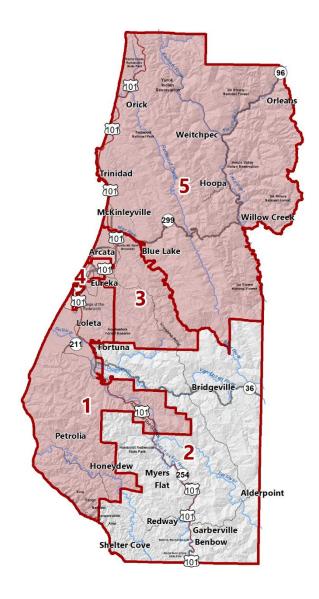


	Incident Responses									
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services			
2	0	1	0	12	7	11	0			
					Total Response	s	33			
	Volunte	er Hours			Pers	onnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxi	liary			
200	999	214	288	20 0)				

*Due to the nature of available data, the incident responses reported above may over or underestimate actual responses.

Humboldt County Second District Supervisor Michelle Bushnell

825 5th Street Eureka, California 95501 Phone: 707-476-2392



Fire Departments:

Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Company **Briceland Volunteer Fire Department Bridgeville Fire Protection District Carlotta Volunteer Fire Department** Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department **Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Garberville Fire Protection District** Miranda Volunteer Fire Department Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Company **Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company Redway Fire Protection District Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department** Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company **Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Company** Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department

Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Department (ADP)

Chief 7700: Sterling W. Kercher Asst. Chief: Michael Joe Valk Asst. Chief: Robin Craig PO Box 164 Alderpoint, CA 95511 707-599-0079 sanster83@yahoo.com





The Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Department (APVFD) was established in 2007. The Company has 13 dedicated volunteers, which includes 11 First Responders. We have a coverage area of 128 square miles in Southern Humboldt. Our apparatus includes a 5 passenger 1990 Ford F-800 type-3 engine with 500-gallon water capacity, a 1991 Ford F-800 4WD type-3 engine with 500-gallon capacity, and a 1993 Ford Pumper Type-2 engine with 700-gallon water capacity. All engines are equipped with firefighting and medical emergency supplies including oxygen and Automated

External Defibrillators (AEDs). We also have Jaws-of-Life and a ropes rescue kit. We provide mutual aide to Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Company, Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department, Kettenpom-Zenia Volunteer Fire Department, Garberville Volunteer Fire Department, and aide California Highway Patrol in traffic control. APVFD proudly serves our coverage area to the best of our abilities.





Challenges & Needs:

Our biggest needs now are a quick attack truck that can easily access places that the big fire trucks cannot, a back-up generator for power outages, and a side-by-side for chasing lightning strikes in areas where there are no roads or access. Our biggest challenge is that GPS doesn't work very well in our area, so the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system tends to send us to the wrong place.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services				
9	3	7	4	15	0	6	0				
					Total Responses	5	44				
	Volun	teer Hours			Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer A		Aux	ciliary				
598	580	197	368	13 0		0					

Briceland Volunteer Fire Department (BCL)



Chief 5400: Aurora Studebaker 4438 Briceland Road PO Box 1249, Redway/Briceland, CA 95560 Office: 707-923-7204 Cell: 707-834-1432 bricelandfire@gmail.com www.bricelandfire.org



Briceland Volunteer Fire Department (BCL) provides emergency services for the Briceland Fire Protection District (BFPD) in the greater Redwood Creek watershed and surrounding areas of Southern Humboldt County. Briceland Fire excels in wildland and urban interface fire suppression and technical rescue. We also strive to maintain strong response readiness for lower frequency/higher risk structure fire and vehicle extrication calls. We currently have 16 crew members, including 2 emergency medical technicians, as well as 4 recruits and 3 youth recruits. BCL members meet and train twice monthly and complete additional special trainings to maintain certifications and hone/develop new skills. We are now operating out of our long-awaited and much needed, new fire station, which includes a sizable app bay, training room, fitness facilities, offices, and kitchen. We are committed to utilizing our resources and trained personnel to provide needed trainings to all Southern Humboldt fire departments; we now host an annual Wildland Academy to provide the basic firefighter certifications for new firefighters and the RT-130 Wildland Fire Safety Training Annual Refresher needed by all wildland firefighters. BCL works closely with the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association, participates in both the Humboldt County and California mutual aid agreements, and provides personnel to the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team. We also play an integral part in regional prescribed fire and cultural burn projects, providing operational support to the CalFire HUU Vegetation Management Program, filling operational and leadership roles for the Humboldt County Prescribed Burn Association, and actively supporting the development of local Wailaki burn crews. BCL operates one type-1 structure engine, three type-3 and one type-6 wildland engines, and a type-1 tactical water tender, all 4WD. The Department is financially supported by community contributions, fundraising events, CalFire and OES assignment income, and revenue from the BFPD special tax.



Challenges & Needs:

Briceland Fire is very grateful to have our new fire station operational! We aim to utilize this infrastructure and our team's experience to be a source for regional fire trainings. As we work to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to the community, we are also trying to provide some needed employment opportunities for crew members on fire hazard reduction projects.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other				
Fires	Fires	Accider	Accidents	Wealcar	Menace	Assistance	Services				
9	4	0	4	21	2	15	17				
] -	Total Responses	5	72				
	Volunteer Hours				Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer Aux		ciliary					
613	1983	200	200	31 22		22					

Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department (BRD)

Chief 7600: Randall (Scott) Katzdorn **Asst. Chief:** Danielle Hallway

P.O. Box 4 Bridgeville, CA 95526





The Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) began operating in 2005 providing fire suppression, rescue services, emergency medical services, and hazardous material response to the community of Bridgeville and the Van Duzen Watershed. In August 2012, the Bridgeville Fire Protection District (BFPD) was formed to establish an ongoing revenue source to support the delivery of fire protection and emergency services by BVFD, The Bridgeville Fire Protection District covers approximately 200 square miles of rural Humboldt County, making it the largest district in Humboldt County. The Bridgeville Fire

Protection District is filled with micro communities, a dangerous stretch of state highway, natural gas main line, and bordering Forest Service land and Bureau of Land Management properties which produce a risk for wildland fires. BVFD currently has 12 trained firefighting personnel with Basic Life Support medical training. The Department has two Type 2 engines in active service, one Type 6, and one Rescue Type 7.

Challenges & Needs:

BVFD is in need of apparatus better designed for our rural mountainous terrain. Access is often an issue or concern. Having an engine and rescue better suited with 4-wheel drive to traverse the hills and mud would mean faster response times and less risk of loss of life and property.



	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Haz-Mat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services				
6	8	5	11	47	0	7	2				
				-	Total Responses	S	86				
	Volunt	eer Hours			Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Au	xiliary				
681	320	90	45	12 0		0					

*Due to the nature of available data, the incident responses reported above may over or underestimate actual responses.

Carlotta Volunteer Fire Department (CAR)

Chief 7200: Todd Calvo Asst. Chief: Rebecca Hartman Captain: Rob Hayes PO Box 33 Carlotta, CA 95528 707-768-1714 hartmancarlottafire@gmail.com

> Find us on **facebook**



The Carlotta Volunteer Fire Department (CVFD) provides firefighting services through the Carlotta Community Services District. The CVFD serves the community as an all-risk fire agency with a current roster of 12 volunteers. Our first-out engine is a 2001 E-One pumper (purchased with Measure Z funds, THANK YOU!) with 1,000 gallons. For medical/rescue, we have a 2008 F350 4x4 Super-Duty Rescue Truck outfitted with a state-of-the-art Hurst Portable Jaws/Ram/Cutter equipment, and a new portable air-bag stabilization system. A 1986 GMC ³/₄-ton rescue vehicle contains rope and rescue gear. Our backup fire truck is a

1977 Ford Van Pelt Pumper with 850 gallons of water. For wildland fires, rope rescues, and traffic control duties, we use a 2000 Ford F350 4x4 Utility Truck that carries rope gear, 150 gallons of water and foam. We also have two water tenders: a 1977 Ford Van Pelt Pumper/Tender Combo with 2,000 gallons, and a 1985 converted Military 6-wheel drive truck with 3,000 gallons.

Challenges & Needs:

One of our main challenges is trying to keep up with the increased medical training requirements (initial and recertification). The increase in required training hours for first responders makes it difficult to retain volunteers.



	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services				
3	1	3	8	29	7	4	4				
				-	Total Responses	S	59				
	Volunte	er Hours			Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer A		Aux	iliary				
584	282	180	100	12 0		C					

Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department (FRT)

Chief 7400: Rus Brown Div. Chief-Safety: Jim Hinrichs Div. Chief-Training: Garrett Petersen Div. Chief-Staffing: Kyle Kertscher 320 S. Fortuna Blvd. Fortuna, CA 95540 707-725-5021 info@fortunafire.com

Find us on facebook



Since 1904, the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department has been honored to be a part of this community. Our unpaid volunteers endeavor to provide the best fire protection possible for your families, homes, and businesses. Our volunteers come from all walks of life and give the gift of their time to protect our community. The Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department is comprised of five fire companies which respond to Fortuna, Fernbridge,

Palmer Creek, Hydesville, Alton, and the Metropolitan area. The eighty-member roster is comprised of one Chief, one Deputy Chief, two Division Chiefs, a Chaplain, five Captains, ten Lieutenants, and sixty Firefighters. Volunteers respond from three fire stations—Hydesville, Campton Heights (being replaced by the new Rohnerville station) and Fortuna, which houses five municipal fire engines, two wildland engines, one ladder truck, two water tenders, two rescue trucks, and seven support vehicles.

Challenges & Needs:

Fortuna Fire, like most departments in the volunteer fire service is struggling to recruit and retain our firefighters. We need community help in offering incentives (i.e. to employers when their employees volunteer and local apartment owners to offer reduced rent to volunteers). Anything that makes it a little easier to volunteer. Costs for everything continues to rise, causing us to make decisions on what is the very least we can get by with and still provide our community with the best fire service possible. The fire service as a whole in Humboldt County needs a dedicated funding source if we are going to be able to continue the level of service that we currently provide.

Always Ready - Always Willing





Incident Responses								
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other	
Fires	Fires	Other Fires	Accidents		Menace	Assistance	Services	
18	6	57	82	828	39	114	317	
				Total Responses			1461	
Volunteer Hours				Personnel				
	Voluntee	er Hours			Pers	onnel		
Incident	Voluntee Training	Fr Hours Maintenance	Fundraising	Career		onnel olunteer	Auxiliary	

Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Department (FLV)

Chief 6200: Jimi Hensley

75 Kelsey Lane PO Box 87 Myers Flat, CA 95554 707-932-1484 fruitlandfirechief@yahoo.com





The Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District (FRFPD) is an all-volunteer department that provides firefighting and emergency services to Fruitland Ridge. Fruitland Ridge is a village approximately three miles east of Highway 254 (the Avenue of the Giants), located between Myers Flat and Miranda. The community contains 223 residences. The FRFPD has a service area that is approximately 35 square miles, spanning west to Elk Creek Road, east to Whitlow Road, north to McCann, and south to Eel Rock Road. Apparatus used are a 2010 Ford 550 4X4 Quick Attack and Rescue Vehicle, 1974 900-gallon International Fire Engine Pumper, and 1994 2,250-gallon Freightliner Water Tender.



Challenges & Needs: Needs: The Fire Hall requires repairs for the heating and water systems. The fire hall kitchen needs to be upgraded for commercial use during disasters. Challenges: Recruitment and retention of auxiliary personnel



Incident Responses								
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services	
Files	Files	1	Accidents	10	-	ASSISTS	Services	
1	0		0	12	5	2	0	
				Total Responses 21			21	
Volunteer Hours					Pers	onnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary		
198	260	100	400	11 7		7		

*Due to the nature of available data, the incident responses reported above may over or underestimate actual responses.

Garberville Fire Protection District (GAR)



Chief 5700: Tim Tietz Asst. Chief: Josh Terrell Mailing: PO Box 288 Station: 680 Locust Street Garberville, CA 95542



Find us on facebook.

Garberville Fire Protection District (GFPD) is an independent, single purpose special district formed in 1937. GFPD is governed by a board of three Directors who are elected by registered voters that live within the boundaries of the district, which is authorized to provide the following community fire protection services within its jurisdictional boundary: fire protection, rescue, emergency medical and other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987. The majority of calls for service are for vehicle accidents and medical aid. After a successful campaign in 2022-23, Garberville Fire has expanded our district boundaries south to the Mendocino county line, west to meet up with Redway and Briceland Fire boundaries, east to Bell Springs Rd and north to Dean Creek. Previously considered a good will area and in our normal



Challenges & Needs:

The primary challenge we face is recruiting capable new volunteer firefighters, and retaining those we train for long term commitments. Many move on, once trained, to career positions with other paid agencies. dispatch zone, these areas are now part of our district boundaries.

Garberville Fire currently has two type two structure fire engines, one heavy rescue for medical aids and traffic collisions, one 3400-gallon water tender, one type six for brush fires and wild land fire response, as well as two command vehicles.

Future goals include a new fire station in the Sprowel Creek subdivision, a new station in the Benbow subdivision, and bringing in as many as 15 new volunteers.



GFPD Response Apparatus

-Two Command Vehicles,
Chief 5700 and Utility 5705.
-Two Type 2 Fire Engines.
-3400-gal 6x6 Tactical Water Tender.
- Rescue 4wd Type 6.



Incident Responses								
Vegetation	Structure	Other Eires	Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other	
Fires	Fires	Other Fires	Accidents	Menace	Assistance	Services		
24	4	12	15	115	14	27	6	
				Total Responses 2				
Volunteer Hours				Personnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer C		reer	Auxiliary	
4,200	1,300	310	160	22		4	4	

Miranda Volunteer Fire Department (MIR)

Chief 6000: David Felt PO Box 160 Miranda, CA 95553 707-599-6282 <u>mirandavolunteerfiredepartment@gmail.com</u> Find us on facebook



The Miranda Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) provides EMS and fire service through the Miranda Community Services District. MVFD serves the town of Miranda and a large sphere of influence in our surrounding communities. We have 16 volunteer responders serving the community. MVFD works with mutual response from CAL FIRE and neighboring departments. Specialized equipment consists of Jaws of Life and extrication equipment. This past year MVFD volunteers have been trained and authorized to administer Narcan to help save community lives. MVFD has had more volunteers gain their EMT certification. MVFD is dedicated, proud and committed to serving our community!

The engine fleet includes:

- Engine 6039: 4x4 Type-3, 1999 international; 500 gpm, 500-gallon tank
- Engine 6036: 4x4 Type-3, 1994 international; 500 gpm, 500-gallon tank
- Engine 6016: Type-1, 2004 Spartan; 1250 gpm, 750-gallon tank
- Rescue R6077: 4x4 Rescue, 2005 Dodge
- Wt 6066: 4x4 water tender, 1997 Freightliner; 375 gpm, 2,070-gallon tank



Challenges & Needs:

Like many other county local departments. We our challenged with volunteer retention and recruitment. Our needs to support our increased call volumes requires more volunteer hours, recruitment, and trainings. Additional funding can be a challenge and we are exploring our options to increase funds. This will help our department, station, and operational needs.

Incident Responses								
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services	
18	7	13	21	81	10	9	7	
					Total Responses			
	Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary		
1,528	1,236	245	356	16		()	

Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department (MYR)

Chief 6900: Tom Mulder

PO Box 131 Myers Flat, CA 95554 707-350-3813 myersflatvfd@gmail.com



The Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department (MFVFD) provides firefighting services to the Myers Flat Fire Protection District (MFFPD). The MFVFD serves approximately 200 residents at its peak and 100-150 full-time. Apparatus include Engine 6931, a Type-3 engine, and Engine 6930, a Type-3 engine with Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS), which was purchased in 2006. We recently complemented our emergency equipment with a full set of RESCUE 42 stabilization struts, cribbing, a new state-of-the-art Sager Emergency Fracture Response System (which can splint any extremity fracture in the position it is found), and a portable 2000-lumen LED scene light, an AED Unit as well as other medical equipment. Measure Z provided funding for SCBAs and wildland gear.

Challenges & Needs:

The station is in need of repairs, especially a new roof. We have acquired the property next door and are exploring funding options to be able to build a new station.

			Incident	Responses			
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
1	3	1	2	25	0	2	1
				Total Responses 35			
	Volunt	eer Hours		Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Au	kiliary
320	150	50	10	5		0	

Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Department (PVV)

Chief 5200: Christoph Fisher Asst. Chief: Chad Gonsalves PO Box 1381 Redway, CA 95560





The The Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Department (PVVFD) is a non-district fire company established in 1983. The department operates a fleet of three vehicles, which serve of population approximately 1,200 across 115 square miles in Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties. Additionally, the PVVFD has strategically placed a total of 50,000-gallons of water storage tanks throughout our response area. Our department has grown over the years into a professional year-round fire department, operated by a membership of 24 wildland firefighters, of whom, 12 are first responders.

California Assembly Bill 102, sponsored by Mike McGuire, has provided the PVVFD with a brand-new Quick Attack that will be in service at the end of 2024.

The incredible support of the community is what makes the PVVFD continue to function.



Challenges & Needs:

Future needs of the PVVFD include continued support by Measure-Z funding to update and maintain existing equipment and fleet vehicles, in addition to, training opportunities for vehicle operation, medical response, vehicle extrication, and wildland firefighting.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services				
3	0	0	1	9	2	0	0				
				Total Responses			15				
	Volunteer Hours				Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary					
250	800	200	700	24		24 15					

Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company (PHL)

Chief 6300: Hank Toberg

PO Box 39 Phillipsville, CA 95559 707-616-3107 ruger@asis.com



The Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC) was formed in March of 1973. We provide medical and fire services for the town of Phillipsville and surrounding areas along the southern portion of the Avenue of the Giants. Using our water tender pictured above, the PVFC also responds to wildland fires throughout Southern Humboldt.

The PVFC does not have a tax-based fire district and exists solely on fundraising efforts by members of the community and the company for continued operations. We are always eager to recruit additional volunteers.

Starting in 1989, the Phillipsville Community Services District (PCSD) began supplying water to the town and the PVFC. In 1998, the PVFC and the PCSD constructed a building to house equipment for the PVFC and the offices for the PCSD, also pictured above.

Challenges & Needs:

Help wanted! With just two volunteers, PVFC was unable to respond to calls in 2023. The Fire Chief hopes that by keeping trucks minimally maintained and actively pursuing volunteers, the Company will come back to serve the community. Anyone that is interested in joining the PVFC please contact Chief Toberg.

	Incident Responses									
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services			
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
				Total Responses			0			
N N	Volunteer Hours (Not Reported)				Perso	onnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary				
-	-	-	-	0		0 0				

Redway Fire Protection District (RDW)

Chief 5800: Peter Genolio Asst. Chief: Alfred Williams Asst. Chief: Seth Ayers 155 Empire Avenue PO Box 695 Redway, CA 95560





Redway Fire Protection District was established in 1958 and serves the unincorporated town of Redway in Southern Humboldt County. In 2023 our department of 19 volunteers was responsible for providing emergency medical, fire suppression and rescue services within our district and when needed, responses to our neighboring local and state public safety partners.

Our fleet includes two Type 1 engines (2002 and 2004) structure fire engines that each carry 700 gallons of water, one 2017 Type 6 quick attack engine that carries 300 gallons,

one 2005 Water Tender that carries 2000 gallons of water and our 2015 GMC utility pick-up for quick response by our chief or duty officer.

We are funded by a percentage of property taxes, mutual aid responses with our agencies and our annual deep - pit BBQ.



	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services				
47	21	12	19	102	9	33	17				
				Total Responses 260							
	Volun	teer Hours			Person	inel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Aux	Auxiliary				
2,496	2,968	702	521	19			0				

Rio Dell Fire Protection District (RIO)

Chief 7100: Shane Wilson 1st Asst. Chief: Ryan Heussler 2nd Asst. Chief: Nate McKnight 50 West Center St. Rio Dell, CA 95562





The Rio Dell Fire Protection District (RDFPD) was officially formed in 1941 as the "Wildwood Fire District" and later

changed to its current title in 1963. In 2020, the RDFPD expanded its boundaries through annexation to include Scotia, Redcrest, Shively, Larabee, and Price Creek. The Rio Dell FPD provides fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material emergency response, and all other services relating to the protection of lives and property. The RDFPD currently serves a population of nearly 4,700 people in the communities of Rio Dell, Scotia, Price Creek, Stafford, Pepperwood, Holmes, Shively, Larabee, and Redcrest with a District boundary of approximately 45 square miles.

The RDFPD operates under the direction of a 5-person elected Board of Commissioners. The Board manages and oversees the property tax allocation and special assessment revenue budget. The board appoints the executive staff of the RDFPD including the Fire Chief, three Assistant Chiefs, and the District Secretary. The Fire Chief oversees the day-to-day operations of the RDFPD and directs staffing assignments. The RDFPD is divided into four Battalions based on **Challenges & Needs:** <u>Station Needs</u> New Shively Station Rio Dell Station Expansion to two bays Scotia Station Bay Expansion Generator Installations at Rural Stations

Apparatus Replacement WT 7155 – 1976 Kenworth E7123 – 1972 International E7114 – 1985 Peirce E7134 – 1994 Freightliner

Equipment Needs New Water Tender for Redcrest New Sawmill Industrial Rescue Equipment

geographical areas: Rio Dell, Scotia, Redcrest, and Shively. Each Battalion is managed by a Battalion Chief who oversees the station staff, apparatus, and equipment. The RDFPD is 100% volunteer with 38 firefighters who respond to approximately 600 calls per year.

Main Office	Rio Dell Station	Scotia Station	Redcrest Station	Shively Station
715 Wildwood Ave	BC: Curt Rumley	BC: Mike Jensen	BC: Justin Olander	BC: Marc Barsanti
1 – Fire Command	50 West Center Street	145 Main Street	115 Sorenson Road	1245 Shively Flat Road
1 – Duty Chief Utility	28 – Volunteers	7 – Volunteers	4 – Volunteers	3 – Volunteers
1 – Asst. Chief Utility	1 – Rescue	1 – Rescue	1 – Rescue	1 – Utility/ Quick Attack
	3 – Engine Pumpers	1 – Quick Attack Type 6	1 – Utility/ Quick Attack	1 – Engine Pumper
	1 – Water Tender	2 – Engine Pumpers	1 – Engine Pumper	1 – Water Tender
		1 – ATV Rescue		

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Other Fires Vehicle Medical	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other				
Fires	Fires	Other Files	Accidents	Accidents	Menace	Assistance	Services				
8	8	17	26	320	56	109	11				
				Total Responses			555				
	Volunteer Hours				Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Aux	iliary				
2,024	1,604	225	1,196	39		39 15					

2 – Tech Rescue Trailers

Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department (SCV)

Chief 6100: Dan Gribi Asst. Chief: Julian King PO Box 662 Miranda, CA 95553 707-358-0000 salmoncreekfire@gmail.com salmoncreekfireprotectiondistrict.com



Salmon Creek is a remote community that is west of Miranda in Southern Humboldt County. We serve an area covering approximately 35 square miles, around 300 homes, and a private school. We are an all-volunteer fire department and have a crew of seventeen dedicated volunteers. Two of our members participate on the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue team. Our operational equipment consists of a 1980 GMC 2wd Type-3 pumper, a 1989 Pierce 2wd Type-1 municipal pumper, a 1990 International Type-1 2,000-gallon water tender, a 2006 Ford 4wd Type-6 Quick Attack, and a 2005 International 4wd Type-3 pumper.

After major organizing and campaign efforts by the Salmon Creek community and Fire Department, the formation of the Salmon Creek Fire Protection District was approved by voters on March 7th, 2023. This was a significant accomplishment to establish sustainable revenue. The Fire department would like to thank the residents for their support.

Salmon Creek has maintained recognition as a Firewise Community site since 2022. The Firewise Committee is comprised of local residents and members of the Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Department. Residents work together to implement the Firewise 3-year Action Plan, taking specific actions to reduce their vulnerability to enhance fire safety.

Challenges & Needs:

With an aging population, Salmon Creek needs more medically trained people to join the department as well as more medical equipment. Becoming a fire district with a sustainable revenue source will help us meet these changes.



	Incident Responses									
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services			
1	1	0	1	19	1	1	0			
					Total Responses					
	Volunteer Hours				Pers	onnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Aux	iliary			
212	652	825	100	17		17 0				

Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department (SHE)



Proudly serving the community of Shelter Cove and the Lost Coast, our mission at Shelter Cove Fire is to offer modern, professional, and reliable 911 services to the community of Shelter Cove and Humboldt County's Lost Coast. Shelter Cove Fire is an all-risk fire department under the Resort Improvement District #1. The Shelter Cove Fire Department Covers a 49 square mile district with around 700 homes and buildings including 9 hotel/motels, 2 public beaches, and a county airport. The Shelter Cove Fire Department covers this district with a mix of 1 fulltime fire chief, 4 part time duty officers and 20-30 volunteer firefighters all fully trained and certified to suppress wildland and structure fires., SCFD responds to around 200 calls for service every year including fires, medical emergencies, rescues, and hazmat incidents. The fire department also helps to maintains one of Southern Humboldt's only fully hydranted communities with 235 fire hydrants gravity fed by 2 million gallons of stored water. SCFD has one fire station, located at 9126 Shelter Cove Road and thanks to the fire tax funds and a 5-year fleet modernization plan maintains one of the most modern and capable fire rescue fleet in the county helping extinguish fires quickly. The phone number for the SCFD station is 707-986-7507.

SCFDs average call response time is approximately seven minutes. The district has an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating of 4 for areas in the district that are within 1,000 feet of a hydrant. This rating was based on improvements in firefighting operations, training, equipment, and a top ranked water system rating across the entire district.

Challenges & Needs

To ensure consistency in emergency care across Humboldt County, it is imperative to build up all local fire departments. This includes enhancing training programs, upgrading equipment, and increasing funding to provide the level of emergency care our community members deserve. Supporting this goal will not only improve mutual aid responses but also ensure that all residents of Humboldt County receive the same high level of care, regardless of their location.

The Shelter Cove Fire Department faces significant challenges due to the deteriorating condition of Humboldt County roads. These failing roads severely impact our ability to respond quickly and effectively to emergencies in Shelter Cove, especially wildland fires. The rough and unstable terrain not only slows our response times but also subjects our equipment to increased wear and tear, leading to higher maintenance costs and potential breakdowns.

	Incident Responses									
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Other Fires Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other			
Fires	Fires		Accidents	iviedical	Menace	Assistance	Services			
3	1	6	1	80	10	66	4			
					Total Responses					
	Volunteer Hours				Perso	onnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Aux	iliary	Career			
1,483	2,460	144	140	22	2	8	Δ			

Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department (TEL)

Chief 5500: Peter Lawsky Asst. Chief: Tanner Speas Asst. Chief: Will Rogers PO Box 1803 Redway, CA 95560 (707) 223-3262 telegraphridgefpd@gmail.com www.telegraphridgefire.com

> Find us on **facebook**



The Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District provides fire and emergency response services through the Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. TRVFD has 9 volunteer responders and 4 response vehicles: 5549: Command Type 7 (1997), 5547: Brush / Wildland Type 7 (1986), 5548: Mini Pumper Type 6, 5539: Wildland Type 3 (2006).

In 2023, TRVFD responded to 37 calls that included medical incidents, public assistance, a structure fire, and a wildland fire. The wildland fire took place in June

as the result of a downed tree that

pinned a power line into a dry brush pile. This fire immediately threatened a structure and spread into the wildland. Telegraph Ridge was the first at scene and provided structure protection and established a flanking progressive hose lay. As usual, the majority of the emergency calls were medical or public hazard related. In 2023, fire prevention efforts included Defensible Space project development, and multiple prescribed fire projects. Also in 2023, the Telegraph Ridge Fire Department worked to establish the Ettersburg area as a Firewise recognized community.

Challenges & Needs:

Do to aging apparatus, maintenance continues to be a primary challenge. Apparatus replacement is the solution to some of the problems and will also increase safety, but funding availability is limited.





	Incident Responses									
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services			
1	1	4	2	12	3	12	2			
				Total Responses			37			
	Volunteer Hours				Perso	onnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxi	iliary			
296	584	48	76	9		2				

Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company (WGF)

Fire Chief 5900: Mike Leskar Asst. Chief: Kyle Umina Administrator: Syreeta Lux Administrator: Jessi Langston Training Officer: Sascha Kissell



707-986-1219 (Mike) 707-986-9949 (Kyle) 707-986-7317 (Syreeta) 609-289-5126 (Jessi) 937-272-8263 (Sascha)

The Whale Gulch Fire Company is a bi-county organization, with our response area covering a portion of both Mendocino and Humboldt counties. We were founded in 1973 (after the Finley Creek Fire) and trained in wildland fire hand line construction from our nearby Thorn CAL FIRE Station. Our equipment has evolved from a small tool shed in our community meadow created by Nancy Peregrine, to a firehouse with three engines and a side-by-side: two Type-3 engines, both carrying 500 gallons, and a newer Type 6 Quick Attack, which carries 280 gallons. WGFC has 15 active members, 9 of whom are PSFA certified. We serve 85 residents, and respond to the King Range NCA, and the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. We have also created a fire safe council engaging more community

members and a fuel reduction crew out of our volunteers. Our volunteers continue training, in structure and wildland firefighting, and emergency medical response.

Challenges & Needs:

We need to upgrade our full-size engines (1986 & 1987). We would like to purchase another Type-6 Quick Attack. We would like to make improvements on our existing fire house and improve the driveway and fuels around the driveway. We would like to make a substation out of our old community center where a good amount of our community water is stored. We received a grant from the California Fire Foundation to outfit our side by side with water pump and patient extrication support for hard-to-reach areas and also to pay for a portion of a chipper and for fuel reduction around our water storage. We will continue our annual bake sale, but you can also purchase our merchandise at Whitethorn Construction, or you can send donations to our address listed above.



	Incident Responses									
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Public Assistance	Other Services				
0	0	1	2	4	5	1				
			Total Re	13						
	Volunte	er Hours		Personnel						
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer Aux		Auxiliary				
125	400	180	300	15		0				

Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department (WHT)

Chief 5300: Robert Puno Asst. Chief: Arlo Worthy PO Box 485 Whitethorn, CA 95589 707-986-4103 whitethorn.fire@gmail.com





Whitethorn Fire District is located in the upper Mattole watershed and serves approximately 300 residents. Our neighboring fire Districts include Telegraph Ridge to the North, Shelter Cove to the west, and Whale Gulch to the south. We have two stations located 4 miles apart in the north and south end of our District. Station 1 is located at 16312 Briceland-Thorn Rd. It houses a Type 3 (E5331), A Type 6 quick attack (E5346), and BLS ambulance (E5370). Station 2 is located at 498 Shelter Cove Rd. it houses a Type 3 (E5330), and new to us this year is a Type 6 rescue/quick attack (E5348).



Whitethorn Fire's funding comes from the district's property tax, donations, and a very successful dinner dance fundraiser that the community looks forward to. We have been working closely with our newly formed Fire Safe Council Group to come up with strategies, tactics. and planning of safety/evacuation sites, mapping, and water sources. This group has proven to be a huge asset to Whitethorn Fire.

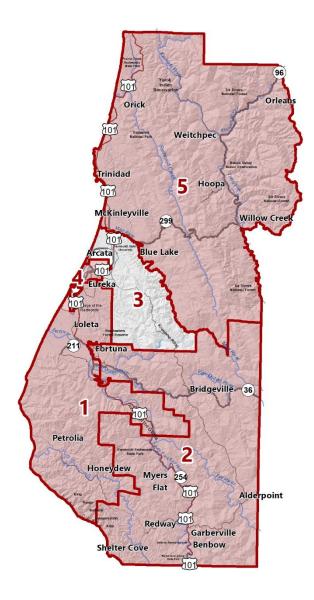
Challenges & Needs: Challenges: Recruitment and Retention is always a huge challenge for all volunteer departments. Needs: Continued support from Measure Z to secure funds for training and the ever-increasing costs of operations.



	Incident Responses									
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	es Vehicle Medical	Modical	Hazmat/	Public	Other			
Fires	Fires	Other Fires		Menace	Assistance	Services				
0	2	0	3	7	3	4	0			
				Total Responses			19			
	Volunteer Hours				Perso	onnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Aux	iliary			
300	600	150	1200	11		0				

Humboldt County Third District Supervisor Mike Wilson

825 5th Street Eureka, California 95501 Phone: (707) 476-2393



Fire Departments:

Arcata Fire Protection District Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Kneeland Volunteer Fire Department

Arcata Fire Protection District (ARF)

Chief 8200: Chris Emmons Assistant Chief: Ross McDonald



2149 McKinleyville Ave McKinleyville, CA 95519 707-825-2000



The Arcata Fire District (AFD) is one of the larger fire districts in the county and covers 62 square miles of the north Humboldt Bay region. The District serves the 36,000 residents living in the city of Arcata and the communities of McKinleyville, Bayside, Manila and Jacoby Creek. AFD operates three fire stations with two firefighters on-duty at each location; the Arcata Station, Mad River Station and the McKinleyville Station.

In the year 2023, a more dependable Type 3 Wildland Engine replaced an unreliable Type 3 engine, a full-time Fire Prevention Specialist and Public Information Officer was hired in July to take on assigned Prevention duties,

increase public outreach and train for the succession plan of the Fire Marshal, and Director Jason Akana joined AFD's board of Directors. A Lateral Engineer position was filled, and the annexation process of Upper Jacoby Creek and Upper Fickle Hill continued with substantial progress. AFD partnered with City of Arcata and Cal Poly Humboldt to develop a Standards of Cover study and Community Risk Assessment. The District had a 95% save rate for the year 2023.

Apparatus List:

-8211: 2007 Type 1, 750g -8217: 2011 Type 1, 750g -8218: 2011 Type 1, 750g -8219: 2022 Type 1, 750g -8239: 2004 Type 3, 500g -8241: 2019 4WD Ford 3500 Pickup & 2018 4WD Gator, 70g -8258: 1998 Water Tender, 3,000g -8291: 2016 Logistics Vehicle

Challenges & Needs:

-Vacant positions still open in both Admin & Suppression roles -Facing an aging fleet -Facing funding challenges -Encountering infill which will strain current deployment levels



	Incident Responses										
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fir		Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other			
Fires	Fires	Other Fir	es	Accidents	weatcar	Menace	Assistanc	e Services			
57	49	138		119	1,921	91	523	642			
						Total Response	S	3540			
	Но	urs				Perso	onnel				
Incident Training Vol. Intern Shift			Volunteer	Caree	er	Auxiliary					
5780	2	76		90	N/A	20		10			

*Due to the nature of available data, the incident responses reported above may over or underestimate actual responses.

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Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department (BLU)

Fire Chief 8500: David Vainuku Asst. Chief: Jason Lewis

PO Box 245 Blue Lake, CA 95525 707-668-5765 bluelakefire@gmail.com





The Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department provides service to the Blue Lake Fire Protection District which includes the City of Blue Lake, the communities of West End Road, Liscomb Hill, and Glendale Drive. Our district area is just under 14 square miles. We have 17 volunteers and one full-time employee. This year we have a new facility to house our equipment that we have had to park outside. This could not have been possible without the help of Measure Z and the additional funding we have received from fees for services. Our equipment includes Rescue A-8546, Engine 8511-Type-1, Engine 8514-Type-1, Engine

8537-Type-3; two water tenders (2,200 gallons and 1,800 gallons), two sets of Jaws-of-Life, five defibrillators, BLS medical and low-angle rope rescue gear.



			Incident	Response			
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other
Fires	Fires	Other Fires	Accidents	Medical	Menace	Assistanc	ce Services
12	9	18	18	138	9	8	143
				Tota	l Responses:		355
	Volunte	er Hours			Perso	onnel	
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Car	eer	Auxiliary
2,840	715	200	72	18		1	0

Challenges & Needs:

Our biggest challenge is having to continuously search for outside funding to maintain the current level of service. Until funding at the local level can be achieved, the future of the current level of service will be at risk.

Kneeland Volunteer Fire Protection District (KFD)

Fire Chief 8900: Wesley Row

6201 Greenwood Heights Drive Kneeland, CA 95549 kneelandfire.org

HILL AND

Kneeland Fire Protection District is an allvolunteer organization that provides Fire, Medical, and Rescue services to the community of Kneeland as well as surrounding areas of Greenwood Heights, Maple Creek, upper Fickle Hill, and areas east of Kneeland including Showers Pass and Mountain View roads. The total district size is currently 38 square miles,

with a total response area of approximately 120 square miles. Kneeland Fire's core mission is to provide the highest level of service Office: 707-442-3252 Cell: 707-599-4985 wrow@kneelandfire.org



possible to our community and its visitors. We work hard to develop a culture within our department that focuses on training and community service so that we are better prepared to save lives and property whenever called upon to do so. More than half of our staff are certified Emergency Medical Technicians or Paramedics as well as being certified in many other areas with California State Fire Training, and other training programs as available. Kneeland Fire currently operates out of one station with three Type 1 Fire Engines, 1 Water Tender, one Type 6 Rescue/Wildland Engine, and 1 Duty Officer Pickup.



Challenges & Needs:

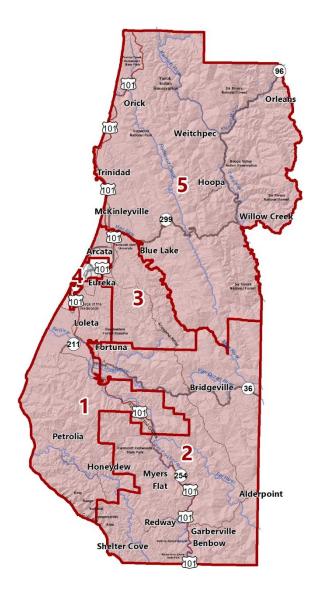
Volunteer recruitment continues to challenge our district like it does many other agencies across the county, state, and even the nation. Firefighting is a labor-intensive job, and the lack of volunteers can result in not having adequate manpower to mitigate an emergency effectively. This can put lives at risk, result in increased property and environmental loss, and heavily tax the existing group of volunteers. Kneeland Fire is actively seeking at least 7 new volunteer firefighters over the next year.

Financial pressure is also straining our district budget. Inflationary pressure, loss of funding, and the general increase in costs of doing business are beginning to catch up. We are exploring all avenues to address coming shortfalls including approaching our community for increased funding through Measure D. We also hope that Measure Z can continue to provide support for needed equipment, PPE, and emergency services in our community and county.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services				
1	1	1	4	15	4	10	5				
				•	Total Response	S	41				
	Volunte	er Hours			Pers	onnel					
Incident Training Maintenance Chief's Admin.				Volui	nteer	Auxi	liary				
264 812 192 480				1	2	1					

Humboldt County Fourth District Supervisor Virginia Bass

825 5th Street Eureka, California 95501 Phone: 707-476-2394



Fire Departments:

Humboldt Bay Fire

Samoa Peninsula Volunteer Fire Dept.

Humboldt Bay Fire (HBF)

Fire Chief 8100: Sean Robertson

533 C Street Eureka, CA 95501 707-441-4000 info@HBFire.org HBFire.org





Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority provides service to approximately 55,000 residents within the City of Eureka and the Greater Eureka Area. We are an all-risk fire department that responds to a wide variety of emergencies. Humboldt Bay Fire (HBF) continues to maintain its level of medical care from BLS to ALS at our five stations. We have several specialty teams including HazMat, USAR, and Water Rescue. In addition to responses for service, HBF offers a wide range of public education programs, including CPR and First Aid classes, school presentations, preparedness, fire extinauisher disaster training, in-home safety inspections and an annual Fire Prevention Open House. HBF

inspects properties and businesses annually to ensure fire and life safety and reviews and approves plans for new construction or remodeling within our jurisdiction in conjunction with City and County agencies.

Apparatus used includes seven Type-1 fire engines, one Type-3 fire engine, two 100' ladder trucks, one 2,000-gallon water tender, one hazardous materials response unit, one Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) truck, one inflatable rescue boat (IRB), and a California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES) USAR Trailer.

Challenges & Needs:

We are enhancing and our career development outreach into schools and colleges through a cadet firefighter and junior firefighter programs. Recruiting local qualified firefighters has been a challenge that can be greatly improved by the development of a local accredited fire academy. HCFCA and HCFIA have been working diligently with College of the Redwoods and CalFire to make this happen.

Additionally, we need to exercise our regional disaster preparedness plans with all allied agencies and partners. An important component of these plans is to get all regional fire agencies upgraded to P25 digital radio compliance.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/	/Menace	Public Assistance	2	Other Services		
47	45	129	198	4,637	25	51	870		1,229		
					Total	Responses			7,406		
	Volunt	eer Hours		Pei	rsonnel (P	rofessiona	l Training Ho	ours =	8,312)		
Incide	Incident Training		Volunteer	r/Cadet	Au	Auxiliary		Career			
40 (Fire Support) 20			2		2		52				

Samoa Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department (SAM)

Chief 8600: Dale Unea Assistant Chief: Troy Smith 1982 Gass St. Fairhaven, CA 95564 707-443-9042 samoafire.org samoavfd@gmail.com



PENINSULA NOA PENINSULA INFOLIATEEN A The Samoa Volunteer Fire Department is an all-volunteer department that provides fire and emergency medical services to the Peninsula Community Services District (formally Samoa Peninsula Fire Protection District.) Services are provided to the communities of Samoa, Fairhaven, and Finntowne, as well as a K-8 grade school, the Samoa Cookhouse, DG Fairhaven Power, an airport, a Coast Guard base, a county RV campground, several light industrial business parks, and over 6 miles of recreational beach and Humboldt Bay front.

Our apparatus includes: <u>8600</u>- 2002 Ford f350, <u>8601</u>- 2013 Ford Explorer, <u>8612</u>- 1987 Ford C8000 Type 1, <u>8614</u>- 2004 Pierce Type 1, <u>8635</u>- 1989 International Type 3, and <u>8679</u>- Beach Rescue.

Challenges & Needs:

Volunteer firefighters today face a dual challenge: the crucial need for up-to-date equipment amidst declining volunteer numbers. As these dedicated individuals step up to serve their communities, the demand for modern firefighting gear becomes increasingly pressing. Advances in technology and safety standards require fire departments to constantly upgrade their equipment to ensure effectiveness and protect their personnel. However, funding constraints often limit their ability to acquire the latest tools and apparatus. This situation underscores the essential role of community support and government initiatives in providing adequate resources for volunteer firefighters. By addressing these needs, communities can better equip their volunteers to handle emergencies and safeguard lives and property effectively.

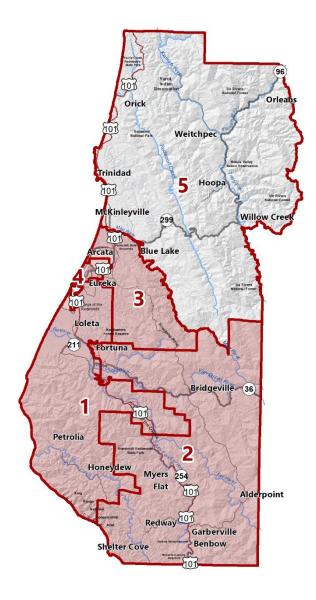


	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services				
12	12	38	9	71	5	6	19				
				1	Fotal Response	S	172				
	Voluntee	er Hours			Perso	onnel					
Incident Training Maintenance Fundraising				Volur	nteer	Auxi	liary				
1395 435 290 92			92	c)	0					

Humboldt County Fifth District

Supervisor Steve Madrone

825 5th Street Eureka, California 95501 Phone: 707-476-2395



Fire Departments:

Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department Hoopa Fire Department Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue Orick Volunteer Fire Department Orleans Volunteer Fire Company Trinidad Battalion CSA #4 (Amador Program) Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department Westhaven Volunteer Fire Company Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department Yurok Fire Department

Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department (FBR)

Chief 8700: Chris Appleton Asst. Chief: Richard Grissom 4584 Fieldbrook Road Fieldbrook, CA 95519

707-839-0931

fieldbrookfd@gmail.com



The Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD) was established in 1955, providing fire protection and emergency medical services through the Fieldbrook-Glendale Community Services District (CSD). The FVFD serves approximately 1,235 residents. In addition, a mutual aid agreement has been established with multiple neighboring districts to allow sharing of resources when necessary.

In late 2022, Jack Sheppard retired from his position as Fire Chief, while thankfully remaining on the FVFD. Assistant Chief Chris Appleton was voted in as the new Fire Chief, with Richard

Grissom as Assistant Chief. The FVFD would like to thank Chief Sheppard for his service and dedication to the department and community of Fieldbrook.

The Fieldbrook Fire Department applied for a 2023 Volunteer Fire Capacity grant which was successfully obtained. This state funded program covers 50% of the cost of wildland related PPE and/or equipment if awarded. In another effort to help fund much needed PPE and fire equipment, the FVFD hosts an annual Chili Feed fundraiser which the community continuously comes out to show their overwhelming support.

The Department is staffed by 20 fully volunteer firefighters, 8 of which have completed their EMT course. The Department is equipped with the following apparatus: a 2006 Rosenbauer Quick Attack truck (8747), a 1996 International Becker Pumper (8715), a 1990 Beck Pumper (8717), a 2007 Peterbilt water tender (8756) and a 2017 F-150 Duty/Chief pickup (8700).



Challenges & Needs:

In our effort to stay NFPA compliant, the department is now desperately in need of many new sets of PPE and SCBA bottles, as their end of service date closes in. The Safety of our Volunteers is paramount.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other				
Fires	Fires		Accidents		Menace	Assistance	Services				
15	17	4	9	64	0	9	50				
				Т	otal Responses	S	168				
	Volunte	er Hours			Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volur	nteer	Auxi	iliary				
584	584 1140 175 200			20)	()				

Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue (HOO)

Fire Chief 9600: Amos Pole Asst. Chief: Daniel Mott Battalion Chief: James McCovey PO Box 1321 11233 Hoopa, CA 95546 707-951-6844 hoopavfd@gmail.com



Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue (HVFR) is a communitybased volunteer organization. It was established in the late 1970s by the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as an all-risk organization, with the primary mission of structural fire suppression.

Our department strives to provide our community members and traveling sightseers with dedicated, professional firefighters certified in medical and technical ropes rescue. The HVFR provides protection services to approximately 4,400 people within a 144 square mile area and a portion of the southeastern most area of the Yurok reservation on Hwy 169. HVFR also assists Orleans VFD and Willow Creek VFD through mutual aid agreements. Our members are from all walks of life, some being police officers and local dispatcher workers, medical and health care workers, HUD housing employees, electrical linemen, EPA scientists, fish habitat technicians, social services workers, and Office of Emergency Services employees.



social services workers, and onlice of Emergency services employees.

Our numerous certified Swiftwater rescue technicians, high/low angle rope rescue operators, and extensive knowledge of our surrounding backcountry and rivers helps us provide a faster response to any incident that may arise.

Apparatus available are two Type-1 fire engines, a Ford Utility F150 Rescue vehicle, a Ford Excursion Command vehicle, and a 16-foot outboard jet boat unit. We also have a retired ambulance vehicle as our new rescue-2 support unit. The department is funded partly by donations from our small community and from the Hoopa Valley Tribe, Indian Health Services, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Challenges & Needs:

As all volunteer fire departments know, the lack of funding to properly operate is a huge challenge. Built in the 1970s, the fire house (which also serves as the tribe's utilities central office) is in desperate need of rebuilding. Also, the second out engine is on its last leg! Of the two type-1 engines we operate, one has major problems, which puts our community and businesses at risk. Two of our rescue vehicles, are housed off-site due to the lack of building space.

	Incident Responses*										
Search & Rescue	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Traffic Collision	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance					
11	16	13	19	7	4	8					
				Total Re	sponses	78					
	Voluntee	er Hours			Personnel						
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Voluntee	r	Auxiliary						
788	315	156	24	14		9					

Orick Volunteer Fire Department (ORK)

Chief 9000: Steven Baker Captains: Judy Hagood Tim Dunkin 101 Swan Road Orick, CA 95555 707-498-4637 OrickChief@gmail.com <u>www.orickfire.com</u>



The Orick Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) provides fire protection and medical aid services to the community of Orick and the surrounding area through the <u>Orick Community Services District</u> (OCSD). The OVFD responds to calls within the OCSD boundary, which is 2.3 square miles, and beyond, with a total response area of 123.8 miles. Apparatus used include one water tender, one engine (1991 Pierce Engine Pumper), a Type 3 engine, and a type-3 ambulance. The OVFD is made up of 9 volunteers and has mutual aid agreements with CAL FIRE, Redwood National Park and Klamath Fire Department. OVFD would like to thank the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association and Measure Z for the much-needed addition to our Hall, and the generator. We are looking forward to making new partnerships in training over the year.

Challenges & Needs:

Orick VFD would like to add an additional water tender, as well as a rapid response vehicle to the fleet. Training opportunities have been a challenge due to our remote location and balancing time between the department and outside obligations.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services				
4	0	4	10	49	4	5	4				
				-	Total Responses	5	80				
	Volunte	er Hours			Perso	onnel					
Incident Training Maintenance Fundraising			Fundraising	Volu	nteer	Auxi	iliary				
488 150 175 200			200	9	9	()				

Orleans Volunteer Fire Department (OLN)

Chief 9700: Eric Nelson Assistant Chief: George Vest Med. Training Officer: Travis King PO Box 312 166 Ishi Pishi Road Orleans, CA 95556 **Main POC:** Penny Eckert 425-241-0415, pjeckert@gmail.com



Dept. Phone: 530-627-3344 **Chief Phone:** 530-627-3434



The Orleans Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) provides fire, rescue, and medical services to the lower-middle Klamath River communities. Organized in 1968, our 198 square mile response area extends from two miles north of Weitchpec, north through Orleans and Somes Bar to Ti-Bar in Siskiyou County and serves about 1,600 residents. The OVFD's fleet is comprised of a Measure Z-funded 2007 Type-1 pumper (E-9711), a 1985 Type-4 Wildland Engine (E-9741), a FEMA-funded 2018 Wet-Rescue (R-9771), and a FEMA-funded 2020 3,000-gallon Type-2 Water Tender (WT-9751).

The OVFD has been a Firewise Partner with the Orleans Community since 2011. In 2022 OVFD collaborated with Firewise community partners to produce a short film depicting

the importance of fire safety and wildfire preparation including prescribed burning. This film will be used in the local elementary schools.

OVFD worked towards completion of the interior of our new fire station in 2023, including insulation, drywall, stairs to the mezzanine, and an extended round of responses to Building Inspection requirements not found in the plans. In 2024, OVFD anticipates completing the installation of the generator, meeting ADA requirements, and completing all other Building Inspection requirements to finalize the permits issued.



Challenges & Needs:

Basic liability, building, and apparatus insurance costs have risen, and may become prohibitive as they have for other VFDs. We hope the state will consider covering insurance or requiring insurance companies to cover VFDs in California at a reasonable fee. OVFD worked on a Mutual Aid Agreement with USFS but was unable to reach agreement. This has been a financial burden on the OVFD and other VFDs for over two years that cannot be sustained. We continue to look for, train, and engage new volunteers for active duty and for fundraising assistance.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services				
2	2	10	4	66	2	12	0				
				-	Total Response	S	98				
	Volunte	er Hours			Pers	onnel					
Incident Training Maintenance Fundraising				Volu	nteer	Sup	port				
756	220	700	1,365	15			2				

Trinidad Battalion CSA #4 (Amador Program)

Battalion Chief 1214: Josh Smith

923 Patrick's Point Drive, PO Box 749 Trinidad, CA 95570 707-672-4755 josh.smith@fire.ca.gov





County Service Area (CSA) #4 was established in 1986 and is a dependent special district governed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. Fire protection is provided by CAL FIRE through an "Amador" contract where the County pays for a portion of the actual fire protection costs (non-fire season costs). The CSA #4 boundary starts at Clam Beach and runs to the north end of Freshwater Lagoon. CSA #4 serves the coastal communities of Crannell, Westhaven, Patrick's Point, Big Lagoon, Kane Road, and Stone and Freshwater Lagoons. It does not include the City of Trinidad or the Trinidad Rancheria.

The CSA #4 resources work hand-in-hand with the local volunteer agencies on a variety of incidents throughout the year. We utilize two Type-3 fire engines, which carry a variety of fire suppression equipment as well as complementary medical gear, including a life-saving defibrillator. Our engines are also equipped with auto extrication gear including two sets of the Jaws-of-Life, a full complement of rope rescue equipment, and a thermal imaging camera.

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Vehicle	Medicals	Hazmat/	Public	Other				
Fires	Fires	Other Files	Accidents	weulcais	Menace	Assists	Services				
0	3	15	15	41	10	3	15				
				٦	Total Responses	5	102				
	Station Ho	urs (Career)			Perso	onnel					
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Fulltime	Volunteer	Auxiliary	Seasonal				
550	1,200	1,250	0	11	0	0	21				

Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department (TRN)

Chief 9100: Tom Marquette Asst. Chief Dick Kieselhorst

409 Trinity St./PO Box 390 Trinidad, CA 95570 707-677-0224 trinidad.ca.gov/volunteer-firedepartment tvfdchief@gmail.com



The Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection, medical, and rescue services to the City of Trinidad, as well as aid to CAL FIRE and the Westhaven Volunteer Fire Company. Our apparatus include a Type-1 fire engine, a Type-4 4x4, and a Type-7 rescue vehicle.

Our original fire house was constructed in 1917 with volunteer labor and materials. In 1958, an addition was built to house a new Type-1 vehicle of that era. In 2017, we modified the firehouse to accommodate larger Type-1 vehicles.





	Incident Responses											
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other					
Fires	Fires	Other Fires	Accidents	Ivieuicai	Menace	Assistance	Services					
2	1	2	2	75	2	8	1					
				٦	Fotal Responses	;	93					
	Volunte	er Hours			Perso	onnel						
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volur	nteer	Auxi	liary					
632	120	150	0	5		()					

Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department (WVF)

Chief 8400: Shawn Worth
1st Asst. Chief: Jeff Hesseltine
2nd Asst. Chief: Matthew Marshall

Mailing: PO Box 2143, Trinidad, CA 95570 Physical (no mail service): 446 6th Avenue Westhaven, CA 95570 **Station:** 707-677-0388 **Chief:** 707-498-5137 8400@suddenlinkmail.com





Established in 1950, the Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department continues to be staffed completely by all unpaid volunteers and funded by community donations. We serve the greater Westhaven area from Crannell and Clam Beach in the south to Trinidad city limits in the north. We also provide mutual and auto aid all the way from Eureka to Klamath. We have been serving our area as the main fire defense long before CDF/CalFIRE arrived at scene.



Challenges & Needs:

Our main challenge is growing and retaining our membership. We have definitely noticed the national trend of declining volunteerism locally as our membership over the past decade and a half has dropped under our normal roster.

Our secondary challenges fall into two categories: increasing regulatory demands and the increasing cost of services and equipment. With ever increasing demands, it is getting more difficult to meet all the growing number of demands as a solely volunteer operation.

As everybody in Humboldt is aware, fuel, utilities, and insurance costs around here are skyrocketing.

Thus, more donations and more volunteers are needed and welcomed. And remember, we are the home of the Wild Blackberry Festival, always the last Sunday in July – hope to see you there!!

	Incident Responses										
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services				
15	8	4	9	52	4	15	5				
				٦	Total Response	s	112				
	Volunte	er Hours			Perso	nnel					
Incident	Incident Training Maint./Admin Fundraising				nteer	Auxil	iary				
867 172 270/275 50				1	0	5					

Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department (WCR)

Chief 9200: Samantha Smith Asst. Chief: Cory Hicks Captain: Cameron Smith Captain: Matt Jaime Mailing: PO Box 51 51 Willow Road Willow Creek, CA 95573 Phone: 530-629-2229 Fax: 530-629-1979 wcvfd1959@gmail.com





The Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department was founded in 1957 after two major business fires in downtown Willow Creek. The original fire department consisted of nine members who responded to 10-15 calls per year. The Willow Creek Fire Protection District was established two years later, in 1959. WCVFD serves approximately 1,800 people within the town of Willow Creek and a large portion of Eastern Humboldt. WCVFD is an all-risk fire department, and we are dedicated to serving our community with integrity and professionalism.

Over the past year, we have continued to see an increase in wildfire severity, impacting our residents in many ways, whether it be smoke, evacuations, or the general stresses of the unknown. Although 2023 had fewer disasters than the two years prior, our number of calls to service remained high for a community of this size. Like all volunteer departments around the country, we have seen a significant decrease in volunteerism. Luckily, in February of 2023, the WC Fire Protection District was able to secure Willow Creek's first full-time paid chief. This has had tremendous benefits for the department, the crew, and has strengthened the relationship between the WCVFD and the WCFPD, which is vital to the long-term success and stability of keeping our community safe. The WCVFD played a supportive role in securing a Community Wildfire Defense Grant, which assists residents in decreasing fuel loads around their homes, and cleaning up the massive number of trees that fell during the winter storm of 2021. Despite low numbers, our crew is well-trained and highly capable, and will continue to respond to our community members in their times of need.



	Incident Responses									
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Others			
10	8	20	43	234	11	21	21			
					Total Response	S	368			
	Volunteer Hours				Perso	onnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxi	liary			
1,029	660	100	20	14		()			

County, State, and Federal Fire Services in Humboldt County Arcata/Eureka Airport Fire Hall

(Humboldt County Aviation Department)

Supervisor Airport Service Workers: Curtis Eikerman Thomas Waterhouse Bret Allen Thomas Sobehrad 3561 Boeing Avenue McKinleyville, CA 95519 707-839-4239 & 707-496-0102 ceikerman@co.humboldt.ca.us twaterhouse1@co.humboldt.ca.us tsobehrad@co.humboldt.ca.us blallen@co.humboldt.ca.us





The Arcata/Eureka Airport Fire Hall provides firefighting services to the travelling public of Humboldt County's regional airport. The Airport Fire Hall operates as part of the Humboldt County Aviation Department. The Airport Fire Hall has a 2008 Oshkosh 1500 Stryker and a specialized Aircraft Rescue Firefighting (ARFF) vehicle. It carries 1,500 gallons of water and 210 gallons of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), which creates a barrier over fuel

spills, removing the oxygen and smothering the fire. The truck also carries 500 lbs. of dry chemical. It has a Caterpillar C-16 engine; the truck can accelerate from 0-50 MPH in under 25 seconds. It can pump 750 gpm at high flow and 300 gpm at low flow. A second ARFF vehicle is a Ford F-450 truck that carries 150 gallons of water/AFFF mix and 500 lbs. of dry chemical.

The Airport Fire Hall staff is also responsible for all the maintenance and fueling at the Arcata/Eureka Airport and the maintenance at the five other general aviation airports in the county (Murray Field, Kneeland, Rohnerville, Dinsmore, and Garberville).

Challenges & Needs:

Our top need is replacing our old Quick Dash F-450 vehicle with a new vehicle that has an updated water/foam delivery system. We also need more personnel, as we are critically shorthanded.

Incident Responses					
Vegetation Fire: Medical/Public Assistance: Emergency Standby:					
0	0		1		
Personnel:	13	Total Responses:	1		

CAL FIRE Humboldt-Del Norte Unit

Unit Chief: Kurt McCray Dep. Chief of Operations: Derrick Misner Admin. Chief D1202: Josh Bennett 118 South Fortuna Blvd. Fortuna, CA 95540 707-725-4413





The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) serves and safeguards the people and protects property and natural resources within California. The Humboldt–Del Norte Unit (HUU) is primarily comprised of Fire Control and Resource Management. The Unit's Fire Protection program is comprised of personnel, equipment, aircraft, and support staff at eleven stations, two conservation camps, one Fire Center, one California Conservation Corps fire crew, an Emergency Command Center, an Air Attack base, and a Helitack base. The CALFIRE Fortuna Emergency Command Center is part of CALFIRE's large network of statewide Command Centers charged with the ability to manage any emergency incident in the State of California through

the coordination of ground and air assets. This gives the county an unparalleled level of service through 911 call-taking and dispatching services, serving 96,000 residents in Humboldt County. The Unit's Resource Management program is focused on sustainability of natural resources as well as fuel reduction programs to reduce fire danger. Additional Programs within the HUU include a Fire Prevention Bureau, Pre-Fire Planning Battalion, a Training Bureau, and a Fleet Management Program. Unit employees work closely with other local emergency responders from all agencies and disciplines through mutual-aid agreements and provide services and education to many local communities. CAL FIRE is committed to working cooperatively with the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, Fire Safe Councils, and other community and government organizations.

Challenges & Needs:

As with many other California Fire Departments, CAL FIRE, and the Humboldt-Del Norte Unit is challenged by the increasing frequency of large destructive wildfires and increasing amount of all types of emergency incidents. CAL FIRE continues to invest in fuel reduction projects as well as the safety and well-being of CAL FIRE personnel and the public.

	Incident Responses (within Humboldt County)									
Vegetation	Structure	Other Fires	Vehicle	Medical	Hazmat/	Public	Other			
Fires	Fires		Accidents		Menace	Assists	Services			
171	74	309	427	5616	456	744	1270			
CAL FIR	CAL FIRE Humboldt/Del Norte Unit Personnel				9067					
Conservation		Emergency		Resource	Law		Seasonal			
Camps/Fire	Fire Stations	Command	Air Program		Enforcement	Admin Staff	Positions			
Center		Center		Management	Emorcement		POSICIONS			
38	37	12	15	11	2	19	198			

Hoopa Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services (HIA)

Chief of Fire 9900: Raldon Brown Multi-Hazard Mitigation Officer Serene White 530-625-4366 PO Box 369 Hoopa, CA 95546 hoopafd@gmail.com hoopaoes@gmail.com





Established in 1987, the Hoopa Fire Department is a chartered stand-alone organization within tribal government and is solely operated and managed by the Hoopa Valley Tribe. The Hoopa Fire Department is a national resource and responds across the nation to provide assistance to local, state, and federal agencies when requested. The Department functions with 7 engines: three Type-3, three Type-6, and one Type-4, a Type-2 water tender, plus various overhead. The Department not only responds to fires but provides assistance for other all-risk response areas. The Hoopa Fire Department also has the pleasure of hosting the Tribal Office of Emergency Services within its organization. The Office of Emergency Services is an all-risk program that is responsible for disaster planning, response, preparedness, and recovery from disasters. Both programs are under the leadership of the Chief of the Department and are tasked with operational responsibilities year-round. Some all-risk Public Assistance and Other Services responses include Tribal Elder and Medically Vulnerable population welfare checks. Welfare checks include site visits, electrical generator set ups during power outages and heating checks that involve responders providing fuel during emergency storms.

	Incident Responses								
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services		
53	0	0	0	0	0	310	53		
					Total Respon	ises	416		
	Volunteer Hours				Pe	ersonnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Full Time	Те	mporary	Seasonal		
-	-	-	-	7		18	10		

US Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest

Forest Supervisor: Ted O McArthur Deputy Forest Supervisor: Vacant Interagency Fire Chief:

Josh Eichamer

Deputy Interagency Fire Chief:

Jennifer Anderson

1330 Bayshore Way Eureka, CA 95501 707-442-1721 www.fs.usda.gov/srnf www.nps.gov/redw

The Six Rivers National Forest and Redwood National Park protect both federal direct protection areas and state protection areas. Redwood National Park and Six Rivers National Forest are a "service first" organization and by agreement work together as one fire management organization, supporting each unit's fire and land management objectives. The Six Rivers National Forest protects the wildland while managing fire on the landscape considering land management objectives, multiple uses, the Forest Service mission, and the Federal Fire Policy (FFP). In accordance with our goals from the FFP, we seek to create resilient landscapes and fire adapted communities through effective, risk-based decision-making for wildfire response. We work closely with CAL FIRE Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, Hoopa Wildland Fire Department, other federal agencies, neighboring National Forests, tribal governments, and multiple volunteer and local fire departments throughout a four-county boundary area.



Apparatus List:

Gasquet: NRA E-311 Type 3 USFS 600 4X2 2018 Gasquet: NRA E-312 Type 3 USFS 600 4X4 2015 Ti-Bar: ORRD E-321 Type 3 USFS 500 4X2 2017 Salyer: LTRD E-331 Type 3 USFS 600 4X2 2017 Mad River: MRRD E-341 Type 3 USFS 500 4X4 2018 Eureka: Coast E-351 Type 3 USFS 600 4X2 2010 Oak Bottom: ORRD E-322 Type 3 USFS 500 4X4 2017 Salyer: LTRD E-332 Type 3 USFS 600 4X2 2020 Ruth: MRRD E-342 Type 3 E-371 Type 3 USFS 600 4X2 2011 Orick: CA-RWP NPS 500 4X4 2015 Orleans: ORRD E-323 Type 3 USFS 500 4X2 2017 Willow Creek: LTRD E-333 Type 3 USFS 500 4X4 2015 Zenia: MRRD E-343 Type 3 USFS 600 4X2 2015

Challenges & Needs: Permanent Pay for federal firefighters. Housing and infrastructure.

	Incident Responses							
Agency	Wildland Fire	s	Smoke Checks	Law Enfor	cement	Public Assistance		
SRF/ RWNP	166		70	339)	5		
				Total Responses				
	Six Rivers NF	and R	edwood NP Fire Perso	nnel (Approxi	mate)			
Full Time	Full Time			Temporary		Seasonal		
265		95			-			

Yurok Fire Department (YIA)

Chief 9400: Rod Mendes Division Chief: Blaine McKinnon Engine Captain: Andrew Lamebear Engine Captain: Fermin Sanchez Engine Captain: Talbert Alvarado Fire Planner: Kim Mamaradlo Administrative Assistant: Alissa Myers Mailing: HC 67 Box 196 23001 State Hwy 96 Hoopa, CA 95546 Physical: 123 Owl Creek Rd 530-784-7870 rmendes@yuroktribe.nsn.us





The Yurok Fire Department is the tribes regulatory fire agency and a nationally recognized fire organization within the Yurok Tribal government, solely operated and managed by the Yurok Tribe. The Yurok Fire Department under a Cooperative Agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs is considered a federal fire resource when on assignment. Responding across the nation to aid local, state, and federal agencies when requested. The Department apparatus includes one Type-3 engine, one type 4 engine, two Type-6 engines, 7 staff vehicles, and excavator with a fecon head, plus various qualified



overhead. The Department not only responds to wildland fires but also provides assistance when requested for other all-risk response incidents. In 2023, the Yurok Fire Department responded to 25-14 days on assignment and multiple local fires within our jurisdiction on the Yurok Reservation and Hoopa. We responded to Oregon, Alaska, Texas, South Dakota, and W

isconsin, as well as multiple assignments in California.

Challenges & Needs: Recruitment and retention as well as sustained funding continue to be primary challenges.



Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Other Services			
25	2	6	4			
Career Personnel	21	Total Responses	45			

Humboldt County Emergency Medical Services, Technical Rescue, and Disaster Response Groups Eel River Valley Technical Rescue Team

Team Commander: Scott Katzdorn Squad Leaders:

NA – Carlotta Robert Anderson – Ferndale Phil Mullins – Fortuna NA – Scotia NA – Loleta Ryan Heussler – Rio Dell Scott Katzdorn – Bridgeville



The Eel River Valley Technical Resource Team (ERVTRT) was formed in 2010 and consists of members from the fire departments of Scotia, Rio Dell, Ferndale, Loleta, Fortuna, Carlotta, and Bridgeville. The team covers emergency response for the Eel River Valley and the Highway 36 corridor to the Dinsmore area. The ERVTRT functions under the guidance of the Eel River Valley Fire Chiefs and acts as a resource to assist fire jurisdictions in providing a higher level of rescue operations to our communities. These operations include low and high angle rope rescue, confined space and trench rescue, collapse and water rescue, as well as providing additional manpower and equipment as needed during any emergency event. The ERVTRT has the capacity to assist other rescue teams

throughout the county, including the Southern Humboldt County Technical Rescue Team and the Humboldt Bay Urban Search and Rescue Team. ERVTRT is trained and equipped to USAR Level 3. Operations and training are overseen by one team leader, while each department has a squad leader who oversees their individual squads, in turn. The ERVTRT is dispatched by CAL FIRE.

Please note: The developers of this report were not able to confirm updated details with representatives from *ERVTRT. Incident response numbers and all other content is based on information reported in 2020 or earlier.*

Incident Responses (2020)							
Traffic Collision (MTX- Vehio Accident with extrication requ	Water Rescue	Traffic Collision (MTC- Vehicle Accident or incident involving moving equipment)	Medical Aid (Technical rescue, rope, over the bank, etc.)				
4	1	6	4				
		Total Responses	15				
Volunteer Hours (2020)		Perso	nnel				
Incidents Training		Volunteer	Auxiliary				
120	120 800		0				

Southern Humboldt County Technical Rescue Team

Chief 5000: Kai Ostrow **Captains:** Aurora Studebaker, Rheanna Campbell, Teamo Tenorio-Gregori PO Box 458 Redway, CA 95560 707-223-0042 SoHumTechRescue@gmail.com





The Southern Humboldt County Technical Rescue Team (SHCTRT) provides rescue services to an area of roughly 1,000 square miles that includes the King's Range, 35 miles of the Lost Coast, 35 miles of Highway 101, portions of both the South and Main Fork of the Eel River, and the entire length of the Mattole River. The Team is responsible for



operations on all High and Low Angle Rope Rescue and Swift Water and Flood Rescue emergencies and supports the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department on Wilderness SAR. Our crew is made up of volunteer firefighters from various Southern Humboldt fire departments. Members of the SHCTRT are highly dedicated men and women with specialized training who respond to rescues in

addition to the normal duties of their respective fire departments. Our governing board is the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association, and we are funded by their annual donations, as well as fundraising by team members.

Apparatus include a 4x4 Light Rescue Truck, a Wilderness SAR Truck, and a Swiftwater Rescue Trailer, housed at our new rescue station colocated with the Garberville CAL FIRE Station. Thank you to our supporters and the taxpayers who fund Measure Z, who together provided us with our long-awaited facility!



Challenges & Needs:

Our primary goal this year is to secure reliable funding, allowing us to acquire much-needed equipment & apparatus, and cover our routine operating expenses. Please encourage your representatives to dedicate a minimum of 20% of the Measure Z Public Safety/Essential Services fund to Fire & Rescue Services. Thanks for your support!

Incident Responses								
Rope Rescue	e Rescue Swift Water/Flood		Search and Rescue	Extrication	Aircraft	Others		
10	1		2	0	0	1		
				Total Re	esponses	14		
	Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incidents	Incidents Training Maintenance Fundraising		Volunteer	·	Auxiliary			
700	720	150	200	10		12		

Humboldt Urban Search and Rescue

Team Coordinator, Humboldt Bay Fire: Mike Tyson 707-441-4000 For dispatch resource requests: 707-441-4044 mtyson@hbfire.org



The Humboldt Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) Team is a group available by request for emergencies related to building collapse, shoring, concrete breaking, and breaching, lifting and rope rescue. HUSAR was formed in 2011 when Cal-OES provided a medium cache of rescue equipment to Humboldt Bay Fire as well as 17 other locations with the goal that no California location would be more than 2 to 3 hours away from a US&R Rescue Unit. A HUSAR crew is available locally or able to respond anywhere in the state with the medium cache trailer RT-32. For a state response, the trailer will meet with other regional teams and combine forces and equipment. Training requirements for the HUSAR team include Rescue Systems 1 and 2, Low Angle Rope Rescue, Trench Rescue, and Confined Space.

HUSAR worked with Pacific Gas and Electricity in 2016/2017 to provide consulting and technical rescue services for the Humboldt Bay Power Plant Decommissioning Project. HUSAR participated in planning meetings and quarterly hands-on drills.

Hazardous Materials Response Team

Team Coordinator, Humboldt Bay Fire: Chris Mitchell 707-441-4000 for consultation 707-441-4044 for Dispatch resource requests

cmitchell@hbfire.org



Since inception in the early 1990's, the Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT) had been staffed exclusively by Eureka Fire Department personnel. The HMRT has evolved into a multi-agency structured team. The multi-agency model allows individuals from public safety and private sector from different agencies to participate in HMRT activities including response, training, and coordination. Currently, the HMRT has team members from Humboldt Bay Fire, Yurok Tribe, Humboldt Waste Management Authority, California Highway Patrol and Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department. The goal is to geographically diversify the HMRT with available personnel located throughout Humboldt and Del Norte Counties to provide support and response in a timely manner.

The HMRT achieved a Cal OES Type II rating in April 2010. The Team Typing recognizes the HMRT as a state resource if mutual aid to an affected area is needed. The Team Typing project requires the HMRT to meet and maintain strict standards in equipment and training.

Throughout the year, HMRT members help local, state, and federal agencies develop and implement training for Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Bi-annual hazardous material response drills were conducted for the US Post Office, Arcata/Eureka Airport, County of Humboldt, and area public safety agencies. The HMRT also assists Humboldt County Environmental Health with updates to the Humboldt County Hazmat Response Plan.

Challenges & Needs: Increase level of training to reduce turnover rates, educate the other county departments on hazmat and decontamination.

HMRT outreach instructors provide state-certified training for First Responder Awareness, First Responder Operations, First Responder Decontamination, and Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness. To schedule a training or for general questions, please contact Chris Mitchell.

Incident Responses					
HMRT provided assistance with product identification and mitigation	Individual HMRT members provided assistance to agencies with mitigation and identification				
1	0				

*Most of the assistance provided is phone consultations to determine if the incident requires response or clean up.

North Coast Emergency Medical Services

Executive Director: Larry Karsteadt **Associate Director:** Wendy Chapman **EMS Coordinator:** Kayce Hurd 3340 Glenwood Street Eureka, CA 95501 707-445-2081 www.northcoastems.com



North Coast Emergency Medical Services (NCEMS) has provided local EMS agency services for the Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, and Lake since 1976. Our overall responsibility is to provide coordinated medical oversight for all aspects of the three-county EMS system. NCEMS serves as the primary coordinating entity for this life saving EMS system, which is made up of hundreds of pre-hospital and hospital personnel. This system includes dispatch providers, fire districts and departments, first responder agencies, public and private ambulance services, emergency departments and hospitals.

NCEMS responsibilities include, but are not limited to, activities such as:

- Development of policies, protocols, and procedures for establishing and supervising the medical direction of EMS services
- Authorization of First Responder and ALS providers
- Monitoring and approval of numerous training programs (First Responder, EMT, Paramedic, and Field Training Officers)
- Certification, authorization, and accreditation of hundreds of EMS personnel, including EMTs and Paramedics.
- Participation in the process to develop statewide EMS standards, particularly from the rural perspective.
- Oversight of the Regional Trauma System

Resources and Programs								
Certified EMTs	Accredited Paramedics	Approved EMT Training Programs	Approved 1 st Responder Training Programs	Advanced Life Support Agencies	Paramedic Programs			
326	59	1	6	5	1			

Prepared for:



Prepared by:







Humboldt County Public Works, Natural Resources Planning Humboldt County Fire Safe Council Humboldt LAFCo

Acknowledgements

Project Oversight

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The <u>HCFCA 2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan</u> and the <u>2019 Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection</u> Plan were both referenced and excerpted in this Report.