

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

2021

Annual Report



Eel River Valley Fire Chiefs' Association, Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association, Alderpoint Volunteer Company, Arcata Fire Protection District, Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Briceland Volunteer Fire Department, Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department, Carlotta Volunteer Fire Department, CSA #4 - Trinidad Battalion, Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department, Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department, Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department, Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Company, Garberville Volunteer Fire Department, Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company, Hoopa Fire Department, Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Humboldt Bay Fire, Kneeland Volunteer Fire Department, Loleta Volunteer Fire Department, Miranda Volunteer Fire Department, Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department, Orick Volunteer Fire Department, Orleans Volunteer Fire Company, Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Company, Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department, Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company, Redcrest Volunteer Fire Department, Redway Volunteer Fire Department, Rio Dell Fire Protection District, Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Samoa Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department, Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department, Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company, Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department, Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department, Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department, Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company, Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department, Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department, Yurok Fire Department. Eel River Valley Technical Rescue Team, Southern Humboldt County Technical Rescue Team, Humboldt Urban Search and Rescue, Hazardous Materials Response Team, North Coast Emergency Medical Services, Arcata/Eureka Airport Fire Hall, CAL FIRE Humboldt-Del Norte Unit, USFS & Six Rivers National Forest.

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Cover Story

Working Together: How the Humboldt County fire service mobilized to offer the Willow Creek Fire Department and community assistance after life-threatening winter storm conditions.

During the final days of December 2021, the communities of Willow Creek, Salyer and Hawkins Bar experienced life-threatening winter storm conditions resulting in snow loads that felled large numbers of trees—blocking roads, cutting utilities, damaging structures, and causing loss of life. Many issues arose from these storm conditions, including roadway incidents, and residents who were trapped without adequate food or water, some who relied on essential electrically powered medical equipment, all leading to a sharp increase in emergency medical calls.



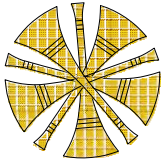
Photo Credit: Fortuna Fire

Despite their best efforts, the Willow Creek Fire Department experienced task saturation due to the volume of calls. The request was made for assistance from available Humboldt County fire and emergency agencies. The response was significant, and included crews from Arcata, Blue Lake, Briceland, Fieldbrook, Fortuna, Humboldt Bay, Kneeland, Loleta, Rio Dell, Shelter Cove, CAL FIRE and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and Department of Public Works. These responders assisted by clearing roadways in order to access homes and check on residents as well as other tasks assigned by incident command. Some residents were trapped or stranded and were in need of evacuation, fuel, or medications. Agencies traveled from distant areas of Humboldt County in department apparatus and assisted for multiple days, working together to address the unique challenges posed by this winter storm. Sheriff William Honsal declared a local emergency and temporary shelters were opened. There were two associated fatalities, and the damage estimate from the storm exceeded \$10 million. After the initial response, tree service contractors and PG&E worked for days to clear downed trees and get power back online.

This incident was an example of the kind of emergency that can overwhelm a single department, and why it is so important for the fire service agencies of Humboldt County to be prepared to give and receive assistance in a time of need. Interoperability and mutual aid are crucial to our ability to deal with rare incidents that require extra personnel. The Willow Creek winter storm incident tested that ability, and lessons were learned. Whether it is a winter storm, an earthquake, a large fire, a tsunami, or something else, our ability to work together to scale our response is crucial to our shared mission of preserving life, health, and safety.



Humboldt Bay Fire Engine 8136 and crew responding to Willow Creek. Photo credits: Humboldt Bay Fire.



FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY

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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Humboldt
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Supervisors,

The importance of sustaining an effective and healthy local fire service is more important than ever as our area is challenged by more and more natural disasters, including increased wildfire activity and unprecedented snowstorms. The Humboldt County Chiefs' Association is working hard to rise to the challenge and support member departments to be resilient to change and work together to strengthen the countywide network of emergency services. You will see evidence of that within the pages of this 2021 Annual Report. We are proud of what we have accomplished together and recognize that there is much more work to be done.

Most fire departments are still recovering from the impacts of the global COVID pandemic and are facing the ongoing challenge of adapting to providing services while ensuring the protection and safety of our members. Recruitment and Retention in this fire service continues to be a critical issue which has been exacerbated by the pandemic as well as other increasing challenges faced by volunteers and personnel. Our association recognizes this and is working to develop tools to assist local departments recruit and retain volunteers. We are also helping departments establish or increase sustainable revenue sources to support increased training and programs designed to improve the quality of the experience for those men and women who do step up and volunteer for these important positions.

The Association would like to thank the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support through annual awards of Measure Z grant funding. These funds have been critical for building and maintaining the local fire service's ability to respond, with modern equipment and trained personnel, to emergency incidents; including personal medical emergencies, vehicle collisions, structure fires, and potentially catastrophic wildfires. Without these funds, local services would be significantly compromised. As you can see, by the many volunteers listed and the hours we train, respond, and give to our communities, Measure Z continues to be the best investment that your Board could give to the citizens of Humboldt County.

Thank you,

Dale Unea

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

Bob Durfee **Samoa Peninsula VFD / Fortuna VFD** **1941 – 2021**

Bob Durfee joined Fortuna VFD at the age of 24 and served for 12 years on the department. In that time, he promoted all the way to the position of Captain. He then left the department for a full-time career position with the Fairhaven Fire District (now known as Samoa Peninsula). Bob later returned to the Fortuna VFD, joining Co. 4 in Hydesville in 1999. He served for an additional six years before retiring from the Hydesville Water District. Bob never forgot where he started his fire service career. As an exempt member of both Co. 2 and Co. 4, Bob attended as many of our department functions as he could. Bob will be truly missed by his fire family.



Tao Ryce **Briceland VFD** **1977 – 2021**

It is with a heavy heart that we share the loss of fire apparatus engineer Tao Ryce. Tao was a dedicated member of the fire department as well as an amazing father, husband, friend and community member. The Southern Humboldt community is hit hard by this loss and will miss Tao so much. One of the ways that Tao showed love for his community was in his hours of dedication to the Briceland Volunteer Fire Department. Willing and able, despite a full and busy life, to do the first responder trainings and to be available and on call in case of emergency. He and the crew helped save homes and lives and help us all feel a little bit more at ease out here, knowing that capable, caring people have our backs.

In Memory

David Nicholson Ferndale VFD / Fortuna VFD 1954 – 2021

Dave has had a long history of fire service in the Eel River Valley. He spent many years with the Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department, working his way to serving as Assistant Chief. He eventually made his way across the river and continued his career in the volunteer fire service with us in Fortuna, serving as a Captain. In the more recent years, Dave served on the Fortuna Fire District board of commissioners and was the current chairman. He also mentored many up-and-coming firefighters through his leadership position with our Fire Explorers program. Dave's passion for supporting and advocating for our department was unmatched. As a former firefighter himself, he knew as a commissioner that he needed to make sure the firefighters in his department were well equipped and cared for. Dave's passing leaves a hole in our hearts and some big turnout boots to be filled. Godspeed Dave, we've got it from here and we won't let you down.



Fire Chief Ed Brady Redway Fire Protection District 1948 – 2021

Chief Brady served as Fire Chief from July 1993 until his retirement in December 2002. After his retirement, Chief Brady continued to serve as a commissioner and board President of the Redway Fire Protection District. Ed began his volunteer service to our district in April 1976 while working as a career Fire Captain for CDF. He brought a wealth of experience and training to our members. During his time in the fire service, he inspired a whole generation of firefighters to be the best. His lessons and mentorship will continue to live on, but Ed will be truly missed.



In Memory

Roger Neal Coleman Sr. Alderpoint VFD 1960-2021

Roger was among the small group of residents that put in many hours getting Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Department up and running in 2007 and has been a valued member of the fire department ever since. Roger was a friend to all and would do anything to help out anyone in need. He was loved dearly by his fellow firefighters, and some of us were lucky enough to consider him one of our best friends. If you knew Rog personally you knew that his family was the most important thing in his life, and he loved his grand babies dearly. He told everyone that they were what he lived for. Roger you were loved by so many and will be missed forever.



Cali the Fire Dog Humboldt Bay Fire 2010 – 2021

Cali was known as the Humboldt Bay "Fire Dog." During her decade with the Fire Department, Cali taught countless school kids about Fire Safety. The firehouse became her second home, and she had her own unique relationship with every firefighter she worked with over the years. Cali always had kind eyes, a wet tongue and a wagging tail for everyone she met. Thank you for your service, Cali the Fire Dog.



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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

2021 Annual Report Introduction

This report documents the level of fire and emergency medical services (EMS/rescue services) available to the residents of Humboldt County in 2021. The results will support the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association (HCFCFA) 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 2021 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 March 2023.

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 there have been recent and significant improvements in 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:

- Limited 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:

- o The replacement of aging safety equipment and apparatus,
- o Dispatch fees and communication infrastructure improvements,
- o Insurance and worker's compensation,
- o Training, and
- o Maintaining and establishing fire stations.

The 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 [2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan](#). 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". These goals will be pursued over the five-year planning horizon through organization-wide implementation of associated key initiatives. 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. To help address this and other fire service and jurisdictional challenges, the HCFCFA annually commits a portion of their allocated Measure Z funding to provide ongoing support for countywide fire service planning. Planning is guided by a committee of the HCFCFA 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 team comprised of staff members from the Humboldt County Planning and Building and Public Works departments who are affiliated with the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council as well as key staff from the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo). Strategies are continually sought to create new fire districts where appropriate and feasible, and to expand the boundaries of existing districts in others. The HCFCFA is working closely with the county and property owners to ensure these changes are backed by a sustainable source of revenue. In 2019, the county agreed 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 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 efforts to:

- Match locations where services are being demanded with jurisdictional boundaries,
- 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 it is hoped that other similar successes will follow.

Despite the many challenges before them, fire and emergency responders are working together and as hard as ever to prepare themselves and their equipment to ensure continued community fire and rescue services and coordinated wildfire prevention and suppression within Humboldt County and beyond.

As part of the Annual Report process, the HCFCFA collects and maintains a comprehensive fire agency contact database. You can access or update contact information in the HCFCFA Fire Agency Directory at:
humboldt.gov/FireDirectory

Geographic Descriptions and Maps

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: www.humboldt.gov/FireServicesMap.

- **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.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.



Humboldt County

Local Fire Protection

Web Map:

[humboldt.gov.org/
FireServicesMap](http://humboldt.gov.org/FireServicesMap)



Legend

- Commercial or Industrial
- Improved Parcel

Local Fire Organizations

- District
- Goodwill Response Area (GRA)
- Non-District Response Area
- Tribal

"District" denotes the jurisdictional boundary for special districts that provide fire service, including fire protection districts, community services districts, a resort improvement district, and a county service area.

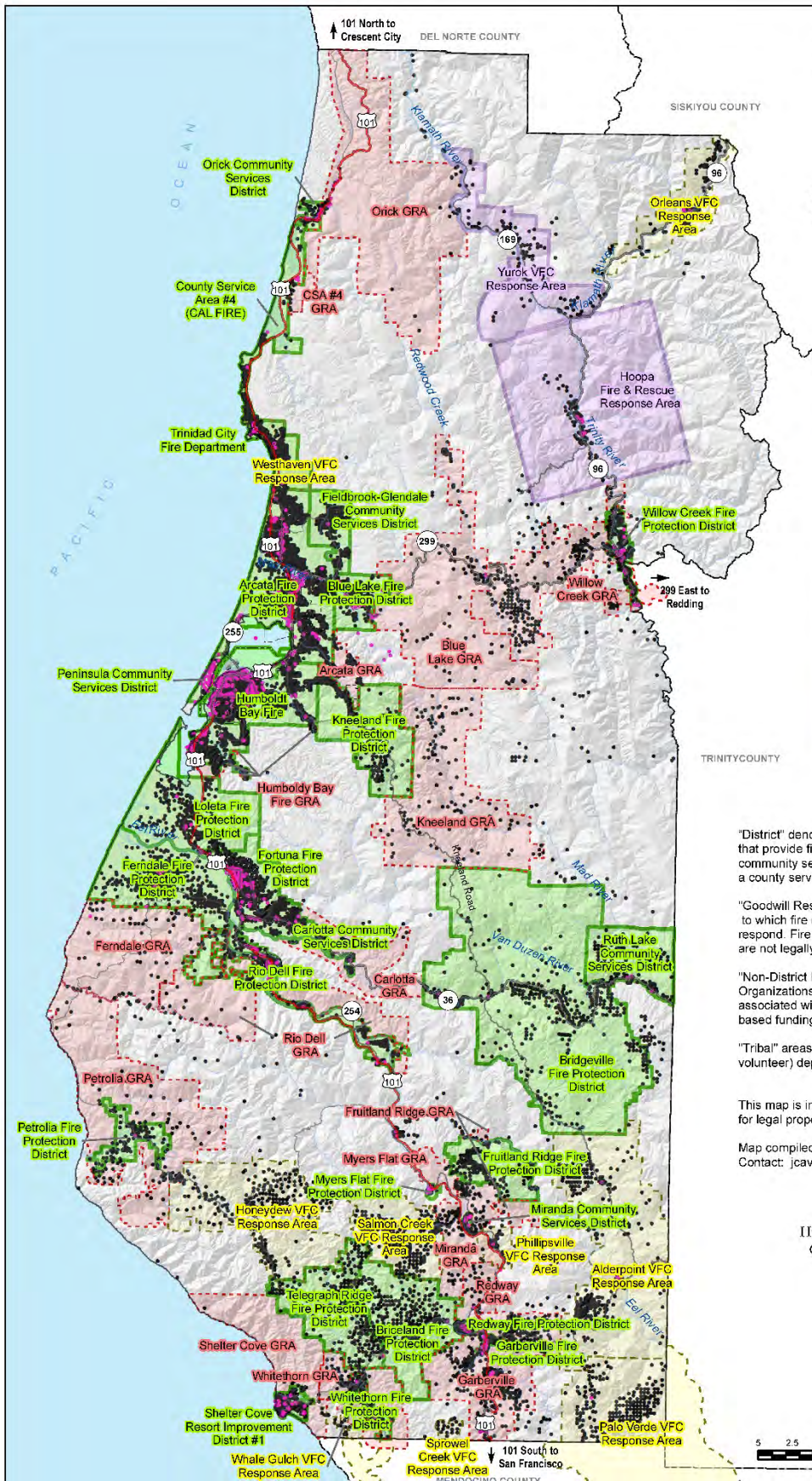
"Goodwill Response Areas" are areas outside of district boundaries to which fire departments, associated with a district, currently respond. Fire districts do not receive funding for these areas and are not legally obligated to respond.

"Non-District Response Areas" are covered by Non-Governmental Organizations, usually Volunteer Fire Companies (VFC) not associated with a district. Such organizations do not receive tax-based funding and instead rely on donations, fundraisers, and grants.

"Tribal" areas are served by volunteer or combination (paid and volunteer) departments under tribal leadership.

This map is intended for planning purposes only and is not intended for legal property boundary determinations or precise measurement.

Map compiled by County of Humboldt August 2021.
Contact: jcavall1@co.humboldt.ca.us



Humboldt County

Federal and State Fire Protection



Legend

Responsibility Areas

- State Responsibility Area (SRA)
- Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA)
- Local Responsibility Area (LRA)

Direct Protection Areas

- State
- Federal

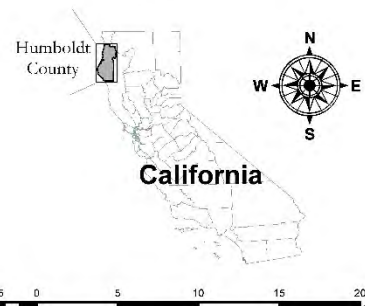
Emergency Response

- Federal Fire Station
- Tribal Fire Station
- CAL FIRE Station
- CAL FIRE Conservation Camp or Fire Center
- Air Attack Base
- Helitack
- Lookout

SRA data obtained from FRAP, April 2021. Stations and Public Lands data collected by Humboldt County, 2000 - 2017.

This map is intended for planning purposes only and is not intended for legal property boundary determinations or precise measurement.

Map compiled by the County of Humboldt, August 2021.
Contact: jcavalli1@co.humboldt.ca.us



Scale bar: 0 to 20 Miles. RF: 1:653,000



Incident Response Summary

The following page provides graphic illustrations of types of responses provided during the 2021 calendar year. There are two pie charts—one for local agencies and one for state and federal agencies—which illustrate total 2021 fire service responses with percentages for each recorded category. It is interesting to note that, for local agency fire service calls, **61 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.

Volunteer hours contributed by all local service providers are also summarized by various categories including time spent responding to incidents, training, maintaining equipment and facilities, and fundraising. A total of 100,118 volunteer hours were reported in 2021. 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.

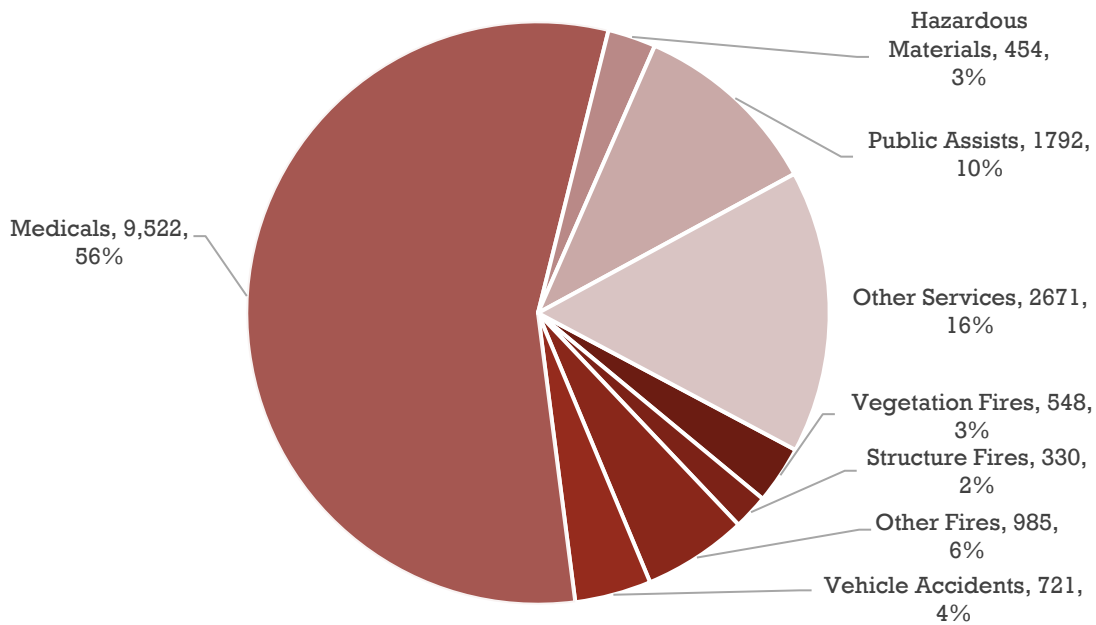
Volunteer Hours	
Humboldt County Fire and Technical Rescue Services	
Incidents	38,505
Training	39,624
Maintenance	12,750
Fundraising	9,239
Total Hours	100,118

Please note: Volunteer hours and the incident response data, were sourced from the CAL FIRE CAD (computer-aided dispatch) system and from the departments themselves. The authors of this report put their best effort into confirming, synthesizing, and filtering the data to get the best picture of the demand placed on Humboldt County fire organizations. However, due to the nature of the available data and unforeseen complications caused by the pandemic, the reported data may, in some cases, over- or underestimate actual numbers.



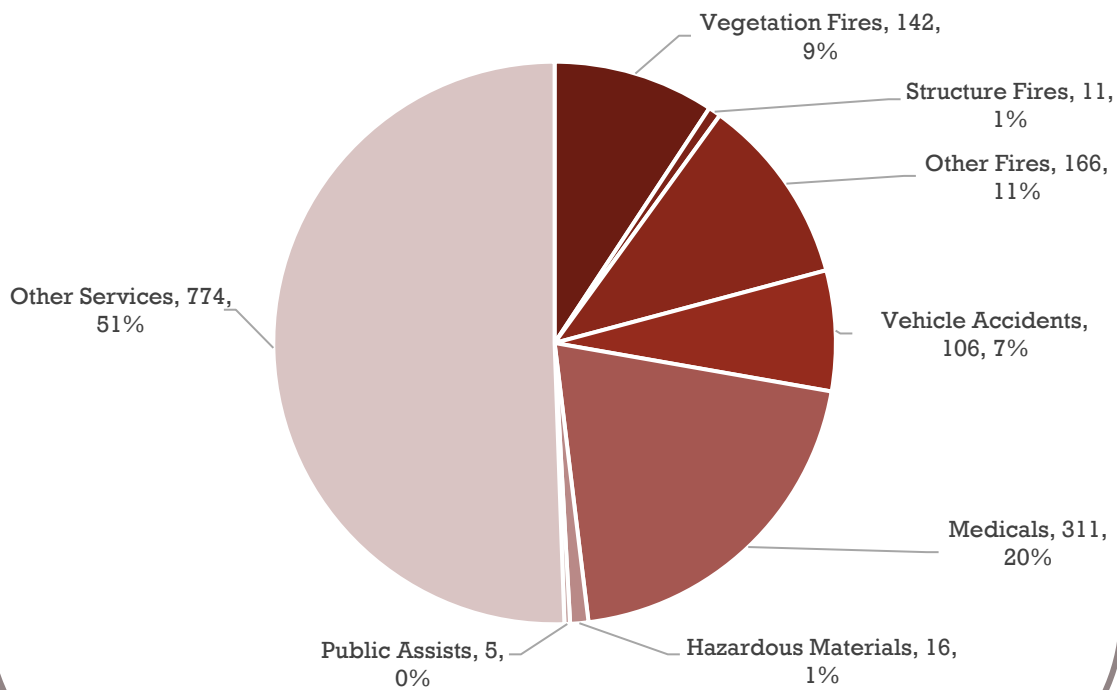
2021 Local Agency Incident Responses

Total Responses: 17,023



2021 State & Federal Agency Incident Responses

Total Responses: 1,531



*Other Services include Prescribed Fire; Search & Rescue; Law Enforcement; Emergency Standby; and Miscellaneous.

Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Associations:

Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association

President: Dale Unea

Phone: 707-443-9042

Email: samoavfd@gmail.com

Vice President: Rick Nicholson

Phone: 707-786-9909

Email: rnicholson@ferndalefire.org

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 ever-increasing 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 COVID-19 emergency provided yet another opportunity for members of the Association to work collaboratively on overcoming obstacles. To that end, we created opportunities for members of the fire service to access COVID-19 testing, vaccines, and reimbursement funds.

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.

Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs' Association

President: Chief Nick Pape
Shelter Cove Fire Department
707-986-7507
nick@sheltercove-ca.gov

Vice President: Assistant Chief Alfred Williams
Garberville Fire Department
Secretary: Cheryl Antony, Shelter Cove VFD
Treasurer: Chris Fisher, Palo Verde VFD

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 around 20 fire departments and community organizations in Southern Humboldt to collaborate for preparedness. The SHFCA is a chapter of the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association, a 501(c)3, and comprises firefighters from all the departments and companies in the Southern Humboldt region.

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. SHCTRT updates are given each month by SHCTRT Chief Kai Ostrow.



Multiagency Engine Operator (ENOP) Training

Eel River Valley Fire Chiefs' Association

Todd Calvo, Carlotta CSD

Lon Winburn, Fortuna FPD: 707-725-5021

Dennis DelBiaggio, Ferndale FPD: 707-768-9909

Ken Nielson, 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, 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

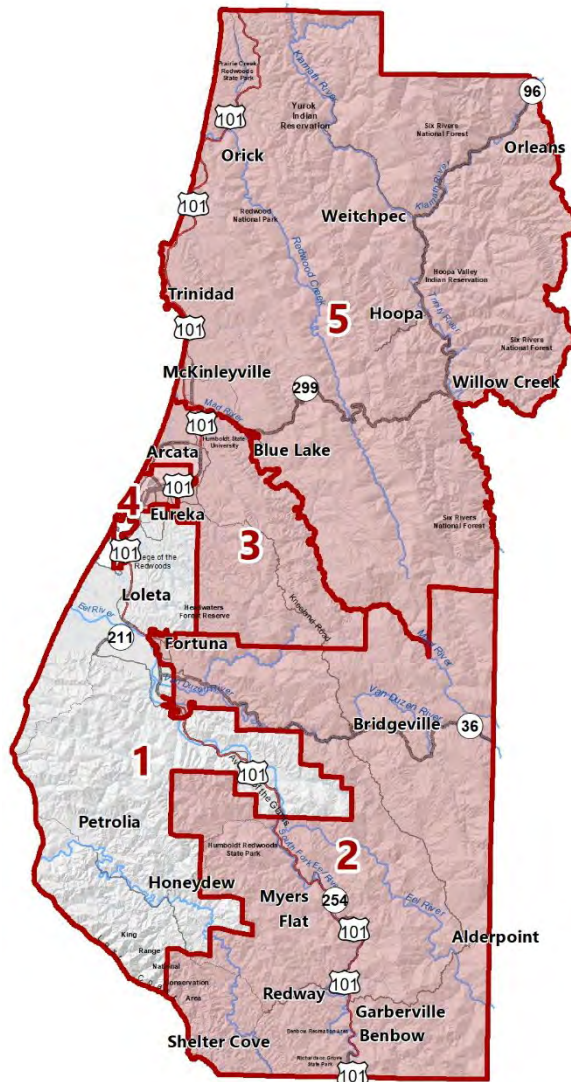
Humboldt County First District

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

Chief: Dennis DelBiaggio
Asst. Chief: Rick Nicholson
Asst. Chief: Jif D'Aguanno

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 services for the Ferndale Fire Protection District (FFPD). The FFPD covers 42 square miles containing the City of Ferndale and outlying areas. The FVFD was founded in 1897 and in 2022 the department will have 125 years of community service. For the year 2021 the department has 27 active members including 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.

Challenges & Needs:

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

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. In 2021 the department received a cash donation and the Ferndale Fire District, and the Fire Department Volunteers matched the contribution. With this added funding the department was able to purchase a CPR Lucas device to better serve our community.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
8	7	13	11	181	14	13	15
Total Responses							262
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
5,750	1,200	200	125	26		15	

Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company

Chief: Peter Marshall

Asst. Chief: Lars Samuels

PO Box 74

Honeydew, CA 95545

707-499-2061

honeydew@asis.com

www.honeydewfire.com



BLM Prosper Ridge pile burning - Engine 6546

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.

Established in 1987 as a 501c3 non-profit corporation, the Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company (HVFC) serves a response area of nearly 100 square miles. Our Area of Responsibility is rugged and isolated, presenting 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, a 1968 Kaiser engine (Federal Excess Property Program 4wd from the Vietnam War era), and three Type 6 engines: a 2003 Ford F-550, 2000 Ford F-450, and a 2008 Ford F-550. 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 maintained this status through 2020. The Fire Company has become 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.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
11	5	0	3	6	0	0	16
Total Responses							41
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
2,000	1,500	1,000	2,000	14		7	

Loleta Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Jeff Robison

Asst. Chief: Ken Nielsen

Asst. Chief: Chase Rocha

PO Box 766

Loleta, CA 95551

707-499-9747

loletavfd@gmail.com



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.

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.

Our fundraising events for the fire department have been far and few for the past couple years, due to pandemic and general time constraints. 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.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
11	7	47	33	193	5	19	13
Total Responses							328
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,495	1,150	375	900	21		0	

Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Travis C. Howe
Captain: Chris Gilda
Captain: Drew Barber

58 Sherman Street
 PO Box 169
 Petrolia, CA 95558

707-629-3558
PetroliaFire@frontiernet.net
www.petroliafire.org



The Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) provides firefighting services to the Petrolia Fire Protection District (PFPD) and outlying areas. Our apparatus includes one 2,000-gallon water tender, three Type-3 engines, a Type-1 engine, an ambulance-type medical rescue vehicle, and an ATV with a winch and side-by-side setup for medical rescue. We also recently obtained Structure PPE with Measure Z funding to address the increase in structure fires in our district.

For as much as we give to this community, they give back. We were not able to hold our yearly BBQ for covid reasons, but our community still supported us through donations and online auctions.

The PVFD has also collaborated with members of the local community to help make Petrolia a nationally recognized Firewise Community. Petrolia has been Firewise since 2011 and has maintained this status through 2020. PVFD continues to assist with the implementation of the community's Firewise Action Plan. Firewise actions reduce the community's vulnerability to damage from wildfire.

Challenges & Needs:

It has been challenging to stretch resources to cover a large response area, including areas located outside of the PFPD boundary. We looked at expanding our boundaries to match where we regularly respond to emergency calls but after much discussion and evaluation, we decided not to move forward at this time.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
9	6	6	2	22	0	4	3
Total Responses							52
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
634	1,572	139	0	20		0	

Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Sterling W. Kercher

Asst. Chief: Michael Joe Valk

Asst. Chief: Robin Craig

PO Box 164

Alderpoint, CA 95511

707-926-5486

sanster83@yahoo.com



Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Department (APVFD) was established in November 2007. The Company has 17 dedicated volunteers, which includes nine first responders and three EMTs. We have a coverage area of 128 square miles in Southern Humboldt. Our apparatus include a three-passenger Ford 900 Type-2 engine with 750-gallon capacity and a five passenger 1990 Ford F-800 Type-3 engine with 500-gallon capacity. We recently received a 1991 Ford F-800 4WD Type-3 engine with 500-gallon capacity from the Federal Excess Program. This engine will be in service in the near future. 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 aid to Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Company, Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department, Kettenpom-Zenia Volunteer Fire Department, Garberville Volunteer Fire Department, and aid California Highway Patrol in traffic control. APVFD proudly serves our coverage area to the best of our abilities.

Challenges & Needs:

Since we got our new truck, we are now in need of supplies to get the truck stocked and in-service. We are in need of a vehicle specifically for medical calls. Transport to medical calls in the firetruck is very time consuming so we tend to take personal vehicles for faster response times. We are in the process of remodeling our fire hall to provide storage for volunteers and a training space for the Department. Our biggest challenge is that GPS doesn't work well in our area, so the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system tends to send us to the wrong place.

Please note: The developers of this report were not able to confirm updated details with representatives from Alderpoint VFD. There were no CAL FIRE dispatch Incident response numbers for 2021 and all other content is based on information reported in 2018 or earlier.

Incident Responses (2020)							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
10	1	9	4	22	2	1	3
				Total Responses			52
Volunteer Hours (2018)				Personnel (2018)			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,910	1,150	-	435	17		3	

Briceland Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Aurora Studebaker

4438 Briceland Road/ PO Box 1249
Redway/Briceland, CA 95560



Office: 707-923-7204

Cell: 707-834-1432

Email: bricelandfire@gmail.com

Web: www.bricelandfire.org



2021 RT-130 Multi-Department Training



New Briceland Fire Station Under Construction

Briceland Volunteer Fire Department (BCL) provides emergency services for the Briceland Fire Protection District (BFPD) in the greater Redwood Creek watershed, southern Humboldt County. Driven in part by the steep, rugged terrain of our response area, our 17-member crew, including 2 emergency medical technicians, has come to excel in wildland and urban interface fire suppression and technical rescue. We also strive to maintain a strong response readiness for *low frequency/high risk* structure fire and vehicle extrication calls. BCL members meet and train twice monthly and commit to additional special trainings to maintain certifications and hone/develop new skills. BCL participates in both the Humboldt County and California mutual aid agreements and provides personnel to the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team. In 2021 Briceland crew took 66 days of CalFire station coverage and local strike team assignments (totaling 5,137 personnel-hours). BCL operates one type-1 structure engine, three type-3 wildland engines, one type-6 quick attack, and a 2000-gallon 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. In 2021, construction began on the long-awaited Tim Olsen Memorial Fire Station. Construction is being funded by a contribution from County Measure Z funding, community support, and the hard work of the crew generating income from work on CalFire and OES assignments.

Challenges & Needs:

Our greatest need right now is to raise the funds to finish and equip our new fire station. We hope to have it operational and be moved in before the 2022 fire season.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
13	6	0	7	10	1	5	14
Total Responses							56
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
363	2,121	100	100	23		22	

Bridgeville Fire Protection District

Chief: Randall (Scott) Katzdorn

Asst. Chief: Danielle Holway

P.O. Box 4

Bridgeville, CA 95526

707-599-8048

bridgevilleVFD@gmail.com



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. BFPD covers 196 square miles and approximately 126,000 acres—the largest district in the County of Humboldt. BFPD serves many micro-communities within the district, as well as coverage of State Highway 36, a high-pressure natural gas pipeline, and adjacent United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands which present a high risk of wildfire. BFPD currently has 10 trained firefighting personnel members, all of whom are trained as medical first responders. BFPD also offers non-transport Basic Life Support (BLS) services.

Challenges & Needs:

As with most small rural departments, BFPD is challenged with a lack of manpower, aging equipment and facility needs.

Despite these challenges, BFPD continues to offer timely response and the ability to coordinate mutual aid when necessary to minimize the loss of life and property.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Haz-Mat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
0	2	18	30	38	2	6	1
Total Responses							97
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
270	720	125	45	10		0	

Carlotta Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Todd Calvo

Asst. Chiefs: Rebecca Hartman

Captain: Rob Hayes

PO Box 33

Carlotta, CA 95528

707-768-1714

hartmancarlottafire@gmail.com



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 ¾-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.

***Please note:** The developers of this report were not able to confirm updated details with representatives from Carlotta VFD. Incident response numbers for 2021 are derived from CAL FIRE dispatch and all other content is based on information reported in 2020 or earlier.*

Incident Responses (2021 CAL FIRE Data)							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
3	0	3	10	27	0	4	2
Total Responses							49
Volunteer Hours (2020)				Personnel (2020)			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary		
500	260	180	100	12	0		

Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Rus Brown

Div. Chief-Safety: Jim Hinrichs

Div. Chief-Training: Garrett Petersen

320 S. Fortuna Blvd.
Fortuna, CA 95540

707-725-5021

info@fortunafire.com



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-position roster is comprised of one Chief, two Division Chiefs, a Chaplain, five Captains, ten Lieutenants, and sixty Firefighters. Volunteers respond from three fire stations—Hydesville, Campton Heights, and Fortuna, which house four municipal fire engines, two wildland engines, one ladder truck, two water tenders, two rescue trucks, and five support vehicles.

Challenges & Needs:

Fortuna Fire currently operates the only fire academy in Humboldt County. With the addition of the new training facility, I only see us expanding the classes that we will be able to offer. With that said the fire academy comes at a cost. We currently seek donations from local insurance companies for our funding. Fortuna Fire being the lead on most of the training during the academy puts a tremendous strain on our instructors, PPE, as well as materials needed for the props. It is probably time that we look at some countywide funding either through Measure Z or some other way to help offset some of the cost in PPE and materials that are currently being absorbed by Fortuna Fire.

Always Ready – Always Willing”.

Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Other Services
25	16	71	84	1,228	23	329
				Total Responses		1,776
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Career	Volunteer	Auxiliary
3,441	3,279	225	250	3	66	22

Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: 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 system. The fire hall kitchen needs to be upgraded for commercial use during disasters. Our plans include replacing our 1974 Type-3 engine for structure fires and getting a set of "Jaws".

Challenges: Recruitment and retention of volunteers and auxiliary personnel.

***Please note:** The developers of this report were not able to confirm updated details with representatives from Fruitland Ridge VFD. Incident response numbers for 2021 are derived from CAL FIRE dispatch and all other content is based on information reported in 2020 or earlier.*

Incident Responses (2021 CAL FIRE Stats)							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
0	0	0	0	5	1	1	1
				Total Responses			8
Volunteer Hours (2020)				Personnel (2020)			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
220	260	200	40	6		10	

Garberville Fire Protection District

Chief: Kent Scown

Asst. Chief: Alfred Williams

Asst. Chief: Todd Barton

PO Box 288

Garberville, CA

707-923-3196

GFPDPublic@gmail.com



The Garberville Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) provides fire, medical, and extrication services to the Garberville Fire Protection District (GFPD). Formed in 1940, the GVFD also serves a large area outside of the GFPD boundary, including areas in Southern Humboldt and Northern Mendocino counties. The GVFD operates from Foltz Station in downtown Garberville. There is an active crew of 19 dedicated individuals and the department is a 100% volunteer organization.

Challenges & Needs:

GVFD is continuing to explore expansion of district boundaries. Expansion would increase the number of potential volunteers, improve service and response times, and is expected to provide additional funding for resource and training improvement. Finding qualified and motivated volunteers is always a challenge. Inflation and rising costs of fuel, equipment, insurance, and maintenance has affected long range planning. However, we have continued to commit ourselves to serve our community and our entire response area.



Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
24	13	79	19	150	4	14	7
Total Responses							310
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
466	150	200	50	19		-	

Miranda Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: David Felt

PO Box 160
Miranda, CA 95553

707-672-3506

dfelt@gmail.com



The Miranda Volunteer Fire Department (MVFD) provides firefighting services through the Miranda Community Services District (MCSD). The MVFD is made up of 16 responders. Specialized equipment consists of a Jaws-of-Life. MVFD has very strong support from the MCSD and the citizens of Miranda. MVFD works with CAL FIRE for mutual response inside and outside the MCSD boundaries.

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
- Engine 6046: 4x4 Type-6, 2005 Dodge; 250 gpm, 250-gallon tank
- Wt 6066: 4x4 water tender, 1997 Freightliner; 375 gpm, 2,070-gallon tank

Challenges & Needs:

Our needs for the future include an addition to our main hall so all trucks can be housed in one location indoors. We need more volunteers and additional funding to support our ability to meet increased call volumes.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
19	11	27	18	56	3	7	5
Total Responses							146
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
4,226	1,100	25	20	11		4	

Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: 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.

***Please note:** The developers of this report were not able to confirm updated details with representatives from Orick VFD. Incident response numbers for 2021 are derived from CAL FIRE dispatch and all other content is based on information reported in 2020 or earlier.*

Incident Responses (2021 CAL FIRE Data)							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
0	0	4	1	12	0	1	5
Total Responses							23
Volunteer Hours (2020)				Personnel (2020)			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
20	150	50	10	6		1	

Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Christoph Fisher

Asst. Chief: Chad Gonsalves

PO Box 1381

Redway, CA 95560

707-499-7570

707-498-0182



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 a population of approximately 2,000, across 115 square miles in Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino Counties. 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 20 first responders and 20 wildland firefighters.

The August Complex Fire has inspired the community to form a Community Emergency Response Team as well as a Fire Prevention group and has motivated many homeowners to increase to defensible space on their lands.

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, and vehicle extrication.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
2	1	3	0	6	2	0	0
Total Responses							14
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
700	1000	300	500	30		50	

Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company

Chief: 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 2021. 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
Volunteer Hours (Not Reported)				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
-	-	-	-	2		0	

Redway Fire Protection District

Chief: Brian Anderson

Asst. Chief: Dolan Dillan

2nd Asst. Chief: Pete Genolio

155 Empire Avenue

PO Box 695

Redway, CA 95560

707-923-2617

redwayfire@gmail.com



Established in 1958, the Redway Fire Protection District serves the unincorporated town of Redway located in southern Humboldt County. Our all-volunteer department is responsible for providing emergency medical, fire suppression and rescue services within our district, and when needed to our neighboring local and state public safety partners. The RFPD is funded by a percentage of property taxes generated within our district, partial reimbursement from Proposition 172 funding, and our annual deep pit BBQ. The RFPD fleet includes one utility pickup, two Type 1 structure fire engines, one Type 6 quick attack engine and one 2000-gallon water tender.

Our Measure Z funded state-of-the-art modular training facility continues to enhance personnel training opportunities. RFPD will be hosting the first basic firefighter training academy in the Spring of 2022. The members of the Redway FPD wish to thank the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for their continued support of local fire services.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
19	19	26	15	60	9	22	21
				Total Responses			191
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
864	368	465	440	17		0	

Rio Dell Fire Protection District

Chief: Shane Wilson

1st Asst. Chief: Ryan Heussler

2nd Asst. Chief: Vacant

3rd Asst. Chief: Vacant

50 West Center St.

Rio Dell, CA 95562

707-764-3329



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 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.

Challenges & Needs:

Station Needs

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

Main Office

715 Wildwood Ave

1 – Fire Command

1 – Duty Chief Utility

1 – Asst. Chief Utility

Rio Dell Station

50 West Center Street

22 – Volunteers

1 – Rescue

3 – Engine Pumpers

1 – Water Tender

Scotia Station

145 Main Street

9 – Volunteers

1 – Rescue

1 – Quick Attack Type 6

2 – Engine Pumpers

1 – ATV Rescue

2 – Tech Rescue Trailers

Redcrest Station

115 Sorenson Road

4 – Volunteers

1 – Rescue

1 – Utility/ Quick Attack

1 – Engine Pumper

Shively Station

1245 Shively Flat Road

3 – Volunteers

1 – Utility/ Quick Attack

1 – Engine Pumper

1 – Water Tender

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
17	11	81	38	352	18	68	13
						Total Responses	598
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,170	1,640	225	1,275	38		8	

Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company

Chief: Dan Gribi

Asst. Chief: Joe Nolen

PO Box 662

Miranda, CA 95553

707-358-0000

salmoncreekfire@gmail.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 (2021 numbers). 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.

We are currently in the process of forming a Salmon Creek Fire Protection District which will provide a stable base level funding source. We plan to bring a ballot measure to our voters in early 2023. There will be many opportunities for public input along the way. Let us know if you wish to receive more information. In addition, we are working with a group of community members to apply for recognition as a Firewise Community site. This will help us focus collective wildfire preparedness efforts and can decrease insurance rates.



Challenges & Needs:

We need more Type-6 Quick Attack engines distributed throughout our large area. More off-road and over-the-bank rescue capability is also needed to serve our rural and rugged area. Lastly, 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	0	1	2	7	0	0	1
Total Responses							12
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
225	2,400	1,125	100	17		0	

Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department

Chief Duty Officer: Nick Pape

Asst. Chief: Cheryl Antony, Frank Wilson

Captains: Cassidy Etter, Logan Edwards

9126 Shelter Cove Road

Whitethorn, CA 95589



707- 986-7507

scfd@sheltercove-ca.gov

sheltercove-ca.gov/fire/fire.htm



The Shelter Cove Fire Department provides Firefighting, Technical Rescue, and Ocean Rescue as well as advanced EMS services to the Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District. The immediate District covers 49 square miles with extensive response well beyond district boundaries. Around 700 homes, numerous businesses, 9 hotel/motels, 2 popular beaches, and a public airport can be found within this district. The Shelter Cove Fire Department protects this District with 4 fire engines, 1 ALS/BLS ambulance, 2 ATV rescue units, and 3 ocean rescue units. The Shelter Cove Fire Department is dedicated to providing the upmost level of emergency medical care and fire rescue services to the residences and visitors of Shelter Cove. This is only possible through our 22 dedicated firefighters, SC CERT Team, and support from the community. Our 24/7 Duty Officer program ensures a fire officer is at the station during the day and allows them to take a fully equipped type 6 engine home at night providing response times of less than 5 minutes.

2021 saw the completion of a 5-year apparatus replacement plan that saw all the departments unsafe and out of date fire apparatus replaced with new modern firefighting equipment. Shelter Cove Fire also sponsored 4 of our new firefighters to attend the Basic Fire Academy at College of the Redwoods. All 4 of them passed the 4-month academy and have accepted job offers with CAL FIRE Humboldt Del-Norte. This academy is a great program to help our local young people find good jobs especially with the state of the local economy in Southern Humboldt.

Challenges & Needs

Shelter Cove is at a high risk of a deadly and devastating wildfire event. We have one way in and one way out. Due to declining road conditions, including poor culvert conditions, temporary single lane bridges installed as a quick fix can lead to evacuation issues. Challenges we continue to have include convincing absentee property owners to reduce the fuel loads on undeveloped lots and preventing illegal grows that become toxic dumps when abandoned. Without a county wide vegetation maintenance policy for vacant parcels, unincorporated fire districts have no authority to fine property owners or remove fuels within large areas of the county. With home prices doubling, young firefighters are being priced out of the fire district. Without affordable housing firefighters will have to move away.



Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
3	0	14	8	54	8	57	21
Total Responses							165
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1096	2398	88	115	22		37	

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

Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company

Chief: Matt Kempe

Asst. Chief: Nate Kempe

President of the Board: Bruce Proctor

707-223-3399

707-223-1070

707-223-1449

PO Box 2122

Redway, CA 95560



Incorporated in 1998 as a non-profit corporation, the Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company serves the Nielsen Ranch Subdivision in Garberville—a response area of 4 square miles. Our area of responsibility is rugged and isolated. To keep response times to a minimum, we presently maintain three separate, strategically located fire stations. Plans are in the works for adding one more fire station. Our response apparatus includes two 4WD fire engine pumpers, each with a 300-gallon capacity; two 2WD fire engine pumpers, with capacities of 350 and 700 gallons, and two newer 4WD trucks that work for rough terrain. The equipment is old but well-maintained. We fund ourselves by selling ice cream at Summer Arts Fair and Reggae on the River. We have 20+ active volunteer members. In 2021 the Sprowel Creek VFC worked on a potential consolidation/annexation plan with the Garberville FPD.

Incident Responses					
Vegetation Fires		Structural Fires		Other Fires	
1		0		0	
				Total Responses	1
Volunteer Hours				Personnel	
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary
0	240	240	1,032	20+	0

Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Peter Lawskey

Asst. Chief: Will Rogers

Asst. Chief: Tanner Speas

PO Box 1152

Redway, CA 95560

(707) 223-3262

telegraphridgefpd@gmail.com

www.telegraphridgefire.com



In 2021, the Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department continued to improve our skills. Five department members completed the Public Safety-First Aid course (PSFA), the new version of medical first responder. We have continued to train and drill for wildland fire responses. This is the greatest threat to people and property within our fire district. Our focus has been on engine operations, including progressive hose-lays, pump operations, pump and roll, and firefighter safety on and around our apparatus. We also worked on driving skills, working towards having more department members qualified to drive our Type 3 engines.

We have had mechanical problems with our engines, with a variety of repairs taking place throughout 2021. TRVFD has five pieces of apparatus: 2 quick response trucks, a 1500-gallon water tender, and two Type 3 wildland pumpers. All our engines are older, mostly made in the 1980's and 90's, except for engine 5539, our 2007 international pumper, bought with Measure 'Z' funds. This is our first engine out, with four-wheel drive and a crew cab that seats five, 5539 has proven to be the best engine for our district, which consists of steep rugged terrain and mostly gravel or dirt roads.

With the large complex fires throughout California recently, TRVFD is working on evacuation plans and safety zones to protect the people in our district. Still in the beginning stages, we hope to establish neighborhood groups and plans in the coming year. This can only occur with the participation of the residents in each area.

Challenges & Needs:

Our greatest challenges are keeping up the maintenance of our engines and completing work on our station, as well as encouraging more volunteer participation.

We have a large list of needs for our engines and station, so fundraising continues to be a focus.



Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Public Assistance	Other Services
13	0	4	3	3	1	2
Total Responses						26
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	
210	560	40	180	11	0	

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

Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company

Fire Chief: Mike Leskar

Asst. Chief: Kyle Umina

Administrator: Syreeta Lux

Administrator: Jessi Langston

Training Officer: Sascha Kissell

76850B Usal Road

Whitethorn, CA 95589

whalegulchvfc@gmail.com

whalegulchfiresafecouncil@gmail.com

wildwithin1083@gmail.com

707-986-1219 (Mike)

707-986-9949 (Kyle)

707-986-7317 (Syreeta)

609-289-5126 (Jessi)

937-272-8263 (Sascha)

We are a bi-county department, 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 Quick Attack, which carries 280 gallons. We have also created a fire safe council engaging more community members and a fuel reduction crew out of our volunteers. Our new volunteers are catching up on their training, both medical and wildland firefighting. We look forward to a quiet summer and fall!



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 upgrade our existing driveway and fire house. We would like to create a substation out of our old community center building. We received a grant in 2019 from the California Fire Foundation to outfit our side by side with water pump and patient extrication support for hard-to-reach areas and another grant in 2022 to pay for a portion of our chipper and clear fuels around our water storage. We will continue to have 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 (2021 CAL FIRE Data)						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Public Assistance	Other Services
1	0	0	0	8	0	1
				Total Responses		10
Volunteer Hours (2020)				Personnel (2020)		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	
150	150	75	250	15	5	

Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Robert Puno

Asst. Chief: Kent Grigsmiller

PO Box 485

Whitethorn, CA 95589

707-986-4103

whitethorn.fire@gmail.com



Whitethorn Fire Protection District is an all-volunteer department. We are located in the upper Mattole Valley and provide service to approximately 300 residents in our district.

Our department consists of eleven volunteers and two fire stations. Station #1 is located at 16312 Briceland Thorn Road. It houses a wildland Type-3 (E5331), a Quick Attack pickup (E5346), and a BLS/Rescue ambulance (R5370). Station #2 is located approximately 4 miles north at 498 Shelter Cove Road and houses a wildland Type-3 (E5330) and an 800-gallon Type-1 pumper (E5320).

We are funded by district property tax, fundraising, and donations. Our annual Dinner & Dance fundraiser is held the third weekend of August.

Last year we had the opportunity to work with the Trees Foundation on mapping our district. We now have a large wall map along with a smaller divided up version for our engines. Also, we were able to put this map on the Avenza App, so all of our volunteers have access from their personal devices.

We have also been working with members of our community to create an evacuation/safety plan in the event of a catastrophic emergency. Whitethorn Fire is always here for the community and now the community is here for us. Through our meetings our community members have a better understanding of what to expect and where they might go during an emergency in or close to our district. Community members are also prepared to help set up and facilitate the evacuation/safety sites if needed.



Challenges & Needs:

To find and purchase a water tender and to continue to recruit new volunteers.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
1	1	0	2	8	1	0	1
Total Responses							14
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Fundraising		Volunteer		Auxiliary	
35	200	0		11		0	

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

Arcata Fire Protection District

Chief: Justin McDonald

Assistant Chief: Sean Campbell

Fire Marshal: Ed Laidlaw

2149 McKinleyville Ave

McKinleyville, CA 95519

707-825-2000

info@arcatafire.org

arcatafire.org



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 AFD serves the 36,000 residents living in the city of Arcata and the communities of McKinleyville, Bayside, Manila and Jacoby Creek operating from three fire stations: the Arcata Station, the Mad River Station, and the McKinleyville Station.

The AFD ended CY 2021 with 3378 calls for service. This was an increase of 4.6% from the previous year. CY 2021 is the second busiest year ever, falling 480 incidents behind CY 2019.

Unfortunately, the staffing situation for the AFD continued to mimic the year prior. During the beginning of 2021, the AFD saw another 6 full-time employees leave for fire jobs elsewhere. As a result of being short staffed, the AFD and firefighter union agreed to modifying their work schedule from 56 to 72 hours weekly. While this resulted in additional overtime costs, it allowed the most flexibility to keep two stations staffed and provide relief to the remaining career staff. A recruitment was conducted, and 5 positions were filled by June 2021. The Arcata Fire District intends to refill the rest of the vacant positions in 2022 which will allow for the staffing of the third station.

Challenges & Needs:

Even though the community voted to approve the Arcata Fire District's special tax (Measure F) in November 2020, the tax revenue will not be received until January 2022.

District operations were similar to that of 2020 with the rotating brownout of one of the three fire stations. This was, in part, due to the limited budget but mostly the loss of staffing due to retirements and jobs with other fire departments.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
49	55	193	89	1,595	58	397	942
				Total Responses			3378
Hours				Personnel			
Incident		Training		Volunteer	Career	Auxiliary	
2764 Career / 232 Vol		2693 Career / 215 Vol		2	15	10	

Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Chief: David Vainuku
Asst. Chief: Jason Lewis

PO Box 245
 Blue Lake, CA 95525

707-668-5765
bluelakefire@gmail.com



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.

Blue Lake and Willow Creek Fire Departments providing extrication services at a motor vehicle collision involving a local news reporter on Hwy 299, 14 miles out of Blue Lake Fire District's response area. Response to this area is currently funded by Measure Z.

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 Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
33	31	91	41	160	12	7	11
				Total Responses:			386
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Career	Auxiliary	
3,088	1,764	192	548	17	1	0	

Kneeland Volunteer Fire Protection District

Fire Chief: Wesley Row

6201 Greenwood Heights Drive
Kneeland, CA 95549
kneelandfire.org

Office: 707-442-3252

Cell: 707-599-4985

wrow@kneelandfire.org



Kneeland Fire Protection District is an all-volunteer organization that provides Fire, Medical, and Rescue services to the community of Kneeland as well as surrounding areas of Greenwood Heights, Maple Creek, Fickle Hill, and areas east of Kneeland toward our district boundary with Bridgeville Fire. The total district size is 38 square miles, with a total response area of approximately 120 square miles. Kneeland Fire places a strong focus on training for its personnel while working with volunteers to find a careful balance between work and family. More than half of our staff are certified Emergency Medical Technicians as well as being certified in many other areas with California State Fire Training. Kneeland Fire currently operates three Type 1 Fire Engines, 1 Water Tender, one Type 6 Rescue Engine, and 1 Duty Officer Pickup.

Kneeland Fire over the past several years has seen a tremendous amount of growth and improvement through modernization of equipment and apparatus, training, and most notably the completion of our fire station. These advancements for Kneeland Fire have largely been achieved due to the support of Humboldt County Measure Z/O which has helped fund many of our improvements including our station project. We are also thankful to our community for their generous support through donations and Measure L — a supplemental property tax passed by Kneeland voters in 2014.

Kneeland Fire is a department with a strong vision for the future and a focus on providing the best possible service to our community or anyone else who calls on us in their time of need. We plan to continue building our department through community outreach, recruitment, modernization, and the latest in training for our personnel.

Challenges & Needs:

The biggest challenge faced by Kneeland Fire continues to be recruitment of new volunteer firefighters. As with many other volunteer departments across the nation it is an issue that needs to be taken seriously so we can continue to provide a reliable service to our communities. It's a game of averages when volunteers respond "as available" to calls so maintaining a deep enough bench of adequately trained personnel is crucial to have appropriate staff for incidents especially during working hours. We are working constantly to recruit as well as innovate in the way we try to attract new members.

Adequate funding is also crucial to our operations. Inflation in the cost of equipment, repairs, services, and barrowing has hit our district hard especially when it comes to the price of insurance for personnel, and facilities. KFPD is looking at ways to get out in front of these challenges early, but we foresee it as an issue that will become more challenging over the next of couple years.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazardous Conditions	Public Assists	Other Services
2	0	2	4	28	5	0	18
Total Responses							59
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Chief's Admin.	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
260.5	1309	200	576	10		0	

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

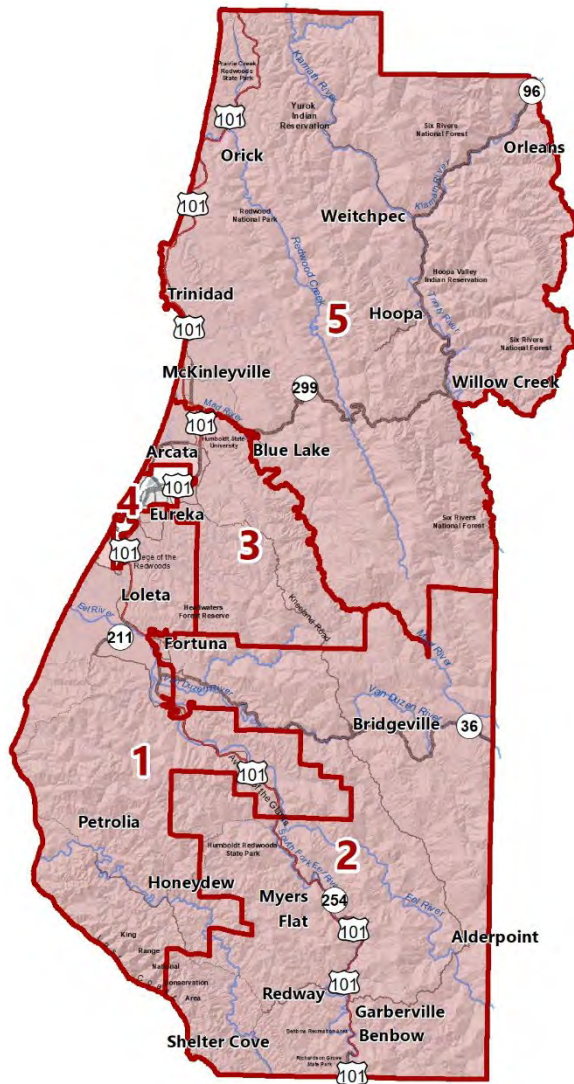
Humboldt County Fourth District

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

Fire Chief: 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, disaster preparedness, fire extinguisher 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, and a California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal-OES) USAR Trailer.

Challenges & Needs:

With a continuously increasing call volume, it is challenging to adequately prepare for the future through planning, recruitment, training, and meeting multiple mandates. We are planning to enhance and extend our volunteer firefighter program into school and college outreach and internship programs.

Additionally, we need to enhance and 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	Other Services
65	49	153	193	4,633	243	835	1,051
Total Responses							7,222
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training			Volunteer	Auxiliary	Career	
50 (Fire Support)	0 (COVID-19 effect)			5	3	51	

Samoa Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Dale Unea

Assistant Chief: Troy Smith

1982 Gass St.

Fairhaven, CA 95564



707-443-9042

samoafire.org

samoavfd@gmail.com



Challenges & Needs:

We continue to work to overcome challenges associated with transitioning from a fire protection district to a community services district. However, during the challenging times of implementing the formation of the Peninsula Community Services District, the Samoa Volunteer Fire Department moved on without missing a beat.

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: 8614- 2004 Pierce Type 1; 8612- 1987 Ford C8000 Type 1; 8635- 1989 International Type 3; 8600- 2002 Ford f350; 8601- 2005 Toyota 4x4; and 8674- Rescue.

Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Other	Mutual-Aid Calls
15	15	79	13	61	41	77
Total Responses						224
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	
535	4,759	1,000+	120	17	3	

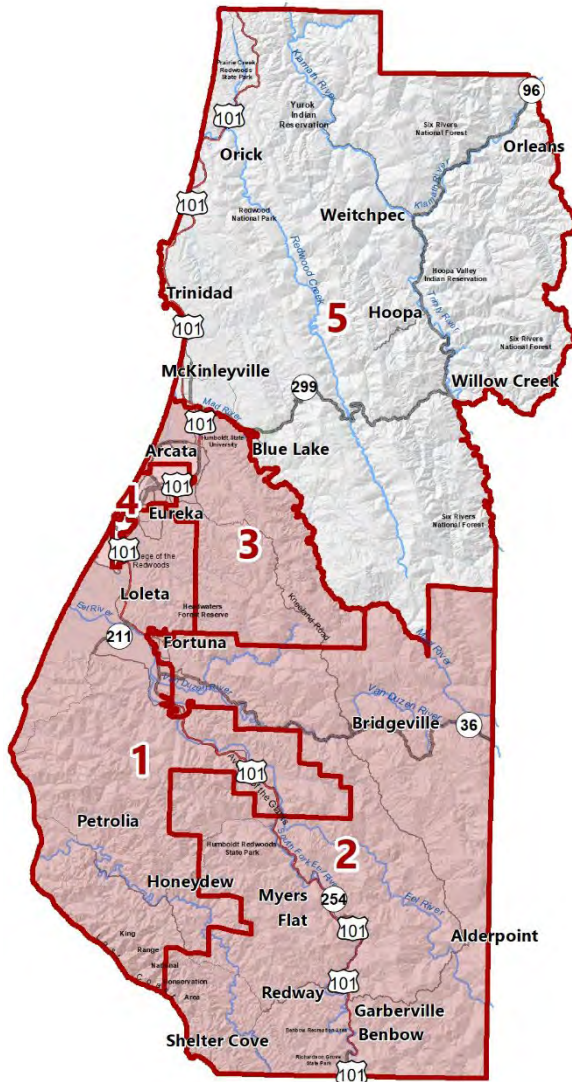
Humboldt County Fifth District

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

Yurok Volunteer Fire Company

Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Jack Sheppard

Batt. Chief: Chris Appleton

4584 Fieldbrook Road

Fieldbrook, CA 95519



707-839-0931

fieldbrookfire.org

fieldbrookfd@gmail.com



The Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD) was established in 1955 and provides 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 Arcata and Blue Lake FPDs to allow sharing of resources when necessary.

Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department has continued to stay in compliance with new PPE, fire hose, and replaced air cylinders that were made available through Measure Z funding. A radio repeater has been installed on Tip Top Ridge in Fieldbrook that has improved radio reception. Currently the department is installing an integrated breathing air cylinder recharge system that has been funded by grants and donations.

Challenges & Needs:

In order to provide faster response to incidents, the department is in the process of purchasing a command truck.

We are actively looking for new volunteers to join our team.

The Department is staffed by 18 firefighters, six of which are certified EMTs. 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), and a 2007 Peterbuilt water tender (8756).

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
12	13	16	10	39	2	1	28
Total Responses							121
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
2,596	1,200	1,695	450	18		0	

Hoopa Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services

Chief of Fire and OES:

Gregory Moon

Division Chief-Fire:

Raldon Brown

OES Coordinator

Serene White

530-625-4366

PO Box 369

Hoopa, CA 95546



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 three Type-3 and three Type-6 and one Type-4 engine and a Type-2 water tender, plus various overhead. The department is fully integrated into the national system as a leader for Tribal Fire Departments across the nation. 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.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
121	0	0	0	0	0	210	10
				Total Responses			341
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Full Time	Temporary	Seasonal	
-	-	-	-	7	18	10	

Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue

Fire Chief: Amos Pole

Asst. Chief: Daniel Mott

Battalion Chief: James McCovey

PO Box 1321

11233 Hoopa, CA 95546

530-625-1118

hoopavfd@gmail.com

Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue (HVFR) is a community-based 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.

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 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 main 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. Several of our rescue vehicles are stored off-site due to the lack of building space.

Incident Responses*						
Search & Rescue	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Traffic Collision	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Community Services
9	26	13	11	7	2	16
				Total Responses		84
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	
254	156	96	0	11	5	

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

Orick Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Steven Baker

Captains: Judy Hagood & Tim Dunkin

101 Swan Road
Orick, CA 95555

707-498-4637

OrickChief@gmail.com



The Orick Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) provides fire protection and medical aid services to the community of Orick and the surrounding area through the Orick Community Services District (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 rescue van that also carries a Jaws-of-Life.

Challenges & Needs:

We are in need of a generator to provide emergency backup power for the water system (during power outages the pumps currently do not work), the fire hall, the OCSD office, and the community hall which could serve as an emergency evacuation site.

Accessibility to training is difficult due to our remote location and balancing time between the department and outside obligations.

The OVFD is made up of 9 volunteers and has mutual aid agreements with CAL FIRE, Redwood National Park and Klamath Fire Department, which has improved the response time for areas on the north end of the bypass. We typically have one fundraiser a year—our booth at the Orick Rodeo. Our community supports us greatly.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
1	2	8	6	58	1	1	23
				Total Responses			100
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
265	150	175	200	9		0	

Orleans Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Eric Nelson

Assistant Chief: George Vest

PO Box 312

38162 St Hwy 96

Orleans, CA 95556

Phone: 530-627-3344

Chief Phone: 530-627-3434

The Orleans Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) provides fire 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. OVFD also responds to mutual aid requests from Hoopa VFD, Weitchpec VFD, Salmon River VFD and Happy Camp VFD. The OVFD's fleet is comprised of a Measure Z-funded 2007 Ferrara International Type-1 pumper (E-9711), a 1985 Ford F-700 Type-4 Wildland Engine (E-9741), a FEMA-funded 2018 Ford F-550 Wet-Rescue (R-9771), and a FEMA-funded 2020 International HV 3,000-gallon Type-2 Support Water Tender (WT-9751).

Orleans has been a Firewise community, and OVFD has been a Firewise Partner, since 2011. We continue to collaborate with community partners to implement Firewise education and events at the two local schools and with the community. Thanks to a substantial grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation, we were able to pay taxes and registration and take delivery of our new water tender.



Challenges & Needs:

COVID-19 eliminated in-person fundraising for the OVFD in 2020, limiting our operating funds and reducing our savings. At the same time, we made substantial expenditures under our Measure Z grant for the construction of the new fire station that have not been reimbursed by the county due to internal county delays.

OVFD is grateful for the continued support from Measure Z. In 2019, we were able to complete site preparation and the foundation for our new fire station. Even with the challenges of COVID-19, 2020 saw dedicated volunteers at the new station nearly weekly. By December, the shell was complete, secured, and weatherproof. We also had a completed ADA-accessible bathroom, including some very expensive bedrock trenching to complete the sewer and water connections thanks to the CARES grant from the Karuk Tribe.



OVFD has maintained a core group of dedicated volunteers as well as important support from community members and businesses. Our local

businesses have made substantial donations of expertise, time, materials, and equipment use to help the department during these difficult times. Community members with building skills have helped with the construction of the new fire station.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
12	1	3	4	61	0	5	3
Total Responses							89
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Support	
987	739	2,624	3,984	16		3	

Trinidad Battalion CSA #4 (Amador Program)

Battalion Chief:

Joshua Bennett

923 Patrick's Point Drive

PO Box 749

Trinidad, CA 95570

707-677-3638

Josh.Bennett@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 Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
2	0	6	9	38	8	0	15
				Total Responses			78
Station Hours (Career)				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Fulltime	Volunteer	Auxiliary	Seasonal
550	1,200	1,250	0	9	0	0	21

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

Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Tom Marquette

Asst. Chief Dick Kieselhorst

409 Trinity St./PO Box 390

Trinidad, CA 95570

707-677-0224

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 Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
3	0	0	2	41	2	2	6
				Total Responses			56
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
110	120	150	0	5		0	

Westhaven Volunteer Fire Company

Chief: Shawn Worth

Asst. Chief: Matthew Marshall

PO Box 2143

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 an all-volunteer department, funded by community donations, serving 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.

COVID-19 continued to make our Wild Blackberry Festival impossible to host in 2021, and we relied solely on community donations to keep going. We send out a big, hearty THANK YOU to all of our friends and neighbors who donated to us in 2021!

As we go forward into 2022 our good friends of the Westhaven Ladies Club are back in our kitchen preparing pies and jams. Pending pandemic restrictions, we are on track for the return of our Wild Blackberry Festival – which happens annually on the last Sunday of July.

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. 2021 brought some significant staffing changes, and half of our new recruits joined paid fire agencies. We are always looking for new folks dedicated to community service to join the department, especially those who are here for the long-haul. We have options both for those interested in firefighting/first responding and those interested in less intense volunteering like administrative and periodic maintenance helping -- no prior fire department experience necessary!

Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance/Other
6	11	10	5	78	8	70
				Total Responses		188
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maint./Admin	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	
667	828	50/300	25	7	3	

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

Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department

Chief: Samantha Smith
Asst. Chief: Jacques Neukom
Captain: Cory Hicks
Captain: Mike Avelar
Captain: Cameron Smith

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.

On top of the continued COVID-19 pandemic, Willow Creek also had two major incidents that impacted all residents and taxed our abilities to respond to the needs of our community. The first was the Knob Fire that kept several of our engines and their crew occupied in 24-hour shifts to aid the hand crews of CalFire for the greater part of a month. The second event was the winter snowstorm that shut down all of our roads and highways and caused extended power outages to a majority of our residents. In both incidents we were fortunate to have had the aid and support from multiple statewide agencies, as well as from all of our neighboring volunteer fire departments across the entire county, for whom we are particularly grateful. Both of these events will continue to have lasting effects on our community for years to come. They have also brought attention to the strengths and deficiencies in both our community and our fire department that we hope to address in this coming year through community outreach, training, and effective use of resources. Through it all, our membership has grown and our connection to the community is strengthened.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance	Others
16	7	8	38	271	16	21	26
				Total Responses			403
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
2,800	1,060	80	20	19		0	

Yurok Fire Department

Chief: Rod Mendes

Battalion Chief: Blaine McKinnon

Engine Captain: Andrew Lamebear

Engine Captain: Fermin Sanchez

Mailing: HC 67 (PO Box

196) 23001 State Hwy 96

Hoopla, CA 95546

Physical: 123 Owl Creek Rd

530-784-7870

rmendes@yuroktribe.nsn.us

The Yurok Fire Department is 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 functions with one Type-3 and two Type-6 engines, plus various qualified overhead, and support equipment. The Department not only responds to wildland fires but also provides assistance when requested for other all-risk response incidents.



Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other
15	4	0	0	0	0	0	45
				Total Responses			64
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Full Time	Temporary	Seasonal	
0	0	0	0	13	0	0	

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

Yurok Tribe Volunteer Fire Company

Chief: Unconfirmed

Asst. Chief: Unconfirmed

Captain: Unconfirmed

HC 67 (PO Box 194)

Hoopla, CA 95546

530-625-4130

rmyers@yuroktribe.nsn.us



The Yurok Tribe Volunteer Fire Company (YTVFC) was formed in 2004 with support from grant funds to build two fire stations. Funding, equipment, and facilities have been provided by the Yurok Tribe, as available. The YTVFC historically responded to structural and wildland fires, as well as calls for medical and rescue services. The YTVFC has participated in cultural fire burns and worked with the Cultural Fire Management Council to bring traditional fire practices back to the Yurok Tribe ancestral territory. Unconfirmed reports indicate that tribal members and residents are working together to rebuild the volunteer base and breathe new life into the department.

Challenges & Needs:

The Tribe has attempted to maintain fire-protection services reservation wide, but funding and challenges recruiting and retaining volunteers make it difficult to provide this service at the desired level. The Volunteer Fire Department is working to recruit more volunteers, secure much-needed additional equipment, and improve response communications.

Please note: The developers of this report were not able to retrieve the necessary information to complete the following table. The Yurok Tribe Volunteer Fire Company has 5 members but is not currently formalized as an agency.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Others
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Total Responses			-
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
-	-	-	-	5		0	

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 short-handed.

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

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 resources in State Responsibility Areas, as well as portions of federal lands in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. The Humboldt–Del Norte Unit (HUU) is comprised of Fire Control and Resource Management. The Unit’s Resource Management program operates out of four offices and is focused on sustainability of all natural resources including timber, education and research on forest pests, and fuel reduction programs to reduce fire danger. The Fire Protection program is comprised of fire suppression equipment, personnel, and support staff at eleven stations, three conservation camps, an Interagency Emergency Command Center, an Air Attack base, and a Helitack base. Programs within the HUU include a Fire Prevention Bureau, a Fleet Management Division, Pre-Fire Planning Battalion, and a Training Bureau.

Unit employees work closely with other local emergency responders from all agencies and disciplines through mutual- and automatic-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.

Incident Responses (within Humboldt County)							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Other Services	
70	11	166	106	311	16	482	
CAL FIRE Humboldt/Del Norte Unit Personnel				Total Responses		1,162	
Conservation Camps/Fire Center	Fire Stations	Emergency Command Center	Air Program	Resource Management	Law Enforcement	Admin Staff	Seasonal Positions
32	33	11	9	14	2	17	180

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

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: Rick Young

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.



Incident Responses				
Agency	Wildland Fires	Smoke Checks	Law Enforcement	Public Assistance
SRF/ RWNP	72	56	236	5
		Total Responses		369
Six Rivers NF and Redwood NP Fire Personnel (Approximate)				
Full Time		Temporary		Seasonal
228		85		-

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- Vehicle Accident with extrication required)	Water Rescue	Traffic Collision (MTC- Vehicle Accident or incident involving moving	Medical Aid (Technical rescue, rope, over the bank, etc.)
4	1	6	4
Total Responses			15
Volunteer Hours (2020)		Personnel	
Incidents	Training	Volunteer	Auxiliary
120	800	30	0

Southern Humboldt County Technical Rescue Team

Chief: Kai Ostrow

Captains: Genairo Gray, Aurora Studebaker,
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 co-located 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:

The primary goal this year is to increase our numbers, both rescuers and auxiliary support team. If you are interested in becoming a member, please consider joining your local fire department. If you are already a firefighter, talk to your Chief about joining the rescue team. For community members who would like to help us during extended incidents or fundraising events, or who might be able to help complete our station construction, please reach out through email or social media. Thanks for your support!

Incident Responses					
Rope Rescue	Swift Water/Flood	Search and Rescue	Extrication	Aircraft	Others
10	1	2	0	0	1
Total Responses					28
Volunteer Hours				Personnel	
Incidents	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary
700	720	150	200	10	12

Humboldt Urban Search and Rescue

Humboldt Bay Fire: 707-441-4000

Contact: Eureka Public Safety Dispatch

Humboldt Bay Fire Captain Nathan Baxley

Dispatch: 707-441-4044

nbaxley@hbfire.org



Challenges & Needs:

1. Specialized training.
2. Member recruitment.
3. Funding source for maintenance of vehicles and equipment as well as replacement of consumables.

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

Fire Captain, Humboldt Bay Fire:

Chris Mitchell

707-441-4000

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
3	2

*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, Mobile Intensive Care Nurse, Field Training Officer)
- Certification, authorization, and accreditation of hundreds of EMS personnel, including EMT, Paramedics and Mobile Intensive Care Nurses
- 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
361	59	2	6	5	1

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Prepared for:



The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association

Prepared by:



HUMBOLDT
Local Agency Formation Commission

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

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Chiefs' Association Annual Report Committee

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The [HCFCA 2019 – 2024 Strategic Plan](#) and the [2019 Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection](#) Plan were both referenced and excerpted in this Report.
