

HUMBOLDT COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

2020



# Annual Report

November 2021

This page intentionally left blank.

---

## Cover Story

### Special District Consolidation to Ensure the Efficient, Effective, and Sustainable Delivery of Local Fire and Rescue Services: A Success Story

---

In 2020, after years in the making, LAFCo approved a precedent setting fire services consolidation proposal through the strategic use of an Annexation. The action allowed the Rio Dell Fire Protection District (FPD) to annex areas primarily served by the Scotia, Shively, and Redcrest Volunteer Fire Companies. In addition to the service areas of these three fire companies, the annexation included portions of Rio Dell FPD's existing out-of-district service area, collectively adding up to 11,498 acres of land (608 parcels). The annexation area included the unincorporated communities of Scotia, Stafford, Shively, Redcrest, Larabee, Pepperwood, Holmes Flat, and Price Creek/Howe Creek. The operations of the four fire departments were officially merged into one efficient, effective, and sustainable emergency services system. This proactive, sustainable solution will make it possible to meet the area's current and future fire and emergency service needs with a regional district model, allowing for an improved economy of scale and associated benefits.

This consolidation represents a commitment and strengthening of past mutual aid agreements between the four emergency response providers into a single, formal agency, organized under Fire Protection District Law. As non-district volunteer fire companies, Scotia, Redcrest, and Shively previously did not have access to a sustainable or reliable source of ongoing revenue to support the provision of fire protection services. These departments have traditionally been supported exclusively through fundraising and donations, and in the case of the Scotia Fire Company, regular contributions by the Town of Scotia LLC. which is in the process of subdividing the "company town" and divesting itself of its holdings, including the Scotia fire hall. Being reliant upon revenue generated from company and community donations, fundraisers, and grants, which can fluctuate dramatically based on local economic conditions, was not a reliable method for these non-profit volunteer companies to develop dependable and consistent budgets.

The annexation provided for the consolidation of fire protection service operations and administration while also retaining the important local identity of each community's fire department. Each of these volunteer departments regularly respond and train together and have historically relied on each other for mutual aid response and support. Now, as part of the consolidation, Rio Dell, Scotia, Redcrest, and Shively have each become battalions of the expanded district. Response capabilities have been improved by establishing a command structure through the appointment of battalion chiefs and a regular duty officer program. To ensure efficiency, pager tones have been modified to provide a focused response, calling on firefighters only from within a single battalion for typical medical calls that require limited resources, and using an all-call dispatch for incidents requiring additional resources. This system has resulted in additional resources and capacity to respond to remote areas that can be promptly cancelled by the duty officer if they turn out not to be needed. This new structure has energized the volunteer firefighters and has increased participation at meetings, trainings, and incidents. Volunteers are more enthusiastic and involved than ever before.

With regard to funding, the annexation provided for the extension of Rio Dell FPD's current property tax allocation and special assessment revenue sources to the expanded district boundary. This provides regular and ongoing revenue to sustain local fire protection services within each annexed community and an equitable mechanism for all property owners to pay their share for those services. An essential component of this process was the execution

of a property tax exchange agreement with the County of Humboldt. Property tax revenue is the main source of funding for most fire related districts but has historically been restricted to existing district boundaries, the expansion of which has not kept pace with development. On May 9, 2019, in an effort to support fire district annexations and consolidations, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors directed that different tax exchange agreements will be offered on a sliding scale contingent upon a fire related district's ability and willingness to meet a set of specific expectations. The Rio Dell FPD successfully demonstrated its eligibility for tax exchange agreement Offer #1 which requires the district to meet the following expectations:

- Establish new and/or update revenue sources;
- Pursue reorganization/consolidation;
- Annex realistic out-of-district response areas; and
- Commit to planning for the future.

The County accepted the district's proposal to meet the above expectations and, in turn, committed to the following:

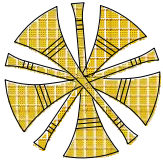
- Transfer a portion of the county's share of the base property tax revenue to the fire district equal to 75% of the district's average tax allocation factor (TAF), multiplied by the 1% property tax revenue for the current year within the annexation area. The fire district's property tax base would increase by the amount transferred; the county's base would be reduced by the same amount.
- In addition, the fire district would receive 100% of its TAF applied to growth in property tax in the annexation area; the County's share of property tax growth would then be reduced by that amount.

The objective of the tax exchange agreements is to incentivize bringing developed areas that are currently outside of any fire related district under the jurisdiction of agencies that provide structure fire and rescue services while at the same time increasing the associated district's portfolio of revenue sources and encouraging strategic planning for sustainability. Rio Dell FPD was the first district to propose annexation/consolidation and successfully meet the highest tax exchange agreement offer available.

This reorganization would not have been possible without substantial efforts (and trust) from each participating fire service provider, which included securing buy-in from its membership and community. In addition, significant technical assistance has been made possible from a portion of Public Safety/Essential Services sales tax funding (Measure Z) granted to the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association. A portion of this grant has been annually allocated to support a formal planning effort led by county staff and the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to address challenges that are impacting the sustainable provision of fire and rescue services throughout the county. These funds may also be used to cover costs associated with the LAFCo process related to receiving, reviewing, and approving applications for fire-related district formations and annexations, as well as Board of Equalization mapping fees. These costs, as well as the lack of administrative staff and expertise to start and complete the district formation and annexation process, have previously discouraged local fire-related districts from addressing their out-of-date jurisdictional boundary issues.

The Rio Dell FPD, in partnership with neighboring fire companies, has successfully modeled an approach that can now be replicated in other areas of the county. This effort demonstrated the meaningful impact of local special districts and the county working together toward establishing an efficient, effective, and sustainable fire and rescue service delivery system.

---



## **FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY**

President Dale Unea  
Vice President Rick Nicholson  
Treasurer &  
Secretary Rich Grissom

P.O. Box 7014  
Eureka, CA 95502-7014

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

Supervisors,

It was not possible to produce a 2019 Chiefs' Association Annual Report, and there have been quite a few changes since the 2018 Report. The most apparent is of course, that I have taken on the role of president, and Rick from Ferndale is now the vice president.

Fire season for the county is an ongoing process with very little time to put your guard down. It has seemed to go from one season to the next without any real break. Our lack of rain and the growth of heavier fuels in the timberlands make for more substantial and volatile fires.

There have been so many events over the past few years, but nothing like a global pandemic. The world as we know it has changed. Our society has been altered in ways we won't fully appreciate for years. For the fire service, I know we have had to change the way we run the most routine medical calls, how we handle auto accidents, and even respond to fire calls. Retention in this fire service has always been an issue, especially for the all-volunteer and mostly-volunteer departments. Now add in that you might contract an illness that will not only affect you, but that you may ultimately take home to your family.

The Association would like to thank the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for their ongoing support with Measure Z grant funding. These funds have been helpful in getting much needed tools out to our fire community so we can effectively do the work needed when we respond to calls. But with that said, the need is never ending, the turnouts that we purchased in year one are rapidly approaching their expected lifespan and we will be needing to replace them once again. As you can see by the volunteers listed and the hours we train, respond, and give to our communities, Measure Z was the best investment that your board could give to the citizens of Humboldt County.

Also, because of the global pandemic, those of us in the fire community have not been able to respectfully give the condolences to our fallen and passed away members that they so honorably deserve. I would like to dedicate this year's Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association Annual Report to our members that we have lost as well as to all the members of our community that have fallen in the line of duty or passed away.

Thank you,

Dale Unea  
President – HCFA

## 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

### **Fire Chief Frank Kambish** **Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department** **1937 – 2020**

In loving memory of retired Shelter Cove Fire Chief Frank Kambish 1937-2020: Loving Husband, Father, Brother, Uncle, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Friend and Fire Chief.



### **Assistant Fire Chief Travis Strange** **Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department** **1969 – 2020**

Travis was a longtime assistant fire chief for Telegraph Ridge Fire. He was also a training instructor, part time mechanic, and a key member of the department. He is greatly missed by his family, friends, and the community.

# In Memory

---

**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 and Fortuna Fire.

**Butch Dias**  
**Firefighter Co. #1**  
**Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department**  
**1962 – 2020**

Butch served a total of 22 years with the Fortuna Fire Department during two different stints, 1986 – 1990 and again from 1992 – 2010. Butch was one of those that always managed to be in thick of it no matter what the call. For Butch it was never about the glory, he was in it for the opportunity to serve his community and help his brother firefighters, a hero in every sense of the word.

**Fire Captain Jim Senestraro**  
**Firefighter Co. #5**  
**Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department**  
**1963 – 2020**

Jim joined the Fortuna Fire Department in 1990 promoting to Captain of Company 5 and serving in that position from 1997 through 2005. Jim continued his service with the department as an Engineer, and a very good one at that, until he retired from the fire service in 2018, having served a total of 28 years. Even after retirement, Jim continued to help with fundraisers and events.

Jim was much more than just a firefighter for the department; he was one of those members that supported all of our department functions and events, always making sure he was available no matter what the task. Jim was a mentor to many and a friend to all.

We will remember Jim for his constant smile, sense of humor, service to his community, and certainly, for the occasional sarcasm that you knew was coming sooner or later. Rest in peace.



**Contents**

Cover Story.....i

President’s Letter ..... iii

In Memory..... iv

Acronyms..... viii

2020 Annual Report Introduction ..... ix

    Geographic Descriptions and Maps ..... xii

    Incident Response Summary ..... xvi

Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Associations: Working Together ..... 1

    Humboldt County Fire Chiefs’ Association ..... 1

    Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs’ Association ..... 3

    Eel River Valley Fire Chiefs’ Association ..... 4

Humboldt County First District ..... 5

    Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department..... 6

    Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company ..... 7

    Loleta Volunteer Fire Department..... 8

    Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department..... 9

Humboldt County Second District..... 10

    Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Department..... 11

    Briceland Volunteer Fire Department ..... 12

    Bridgeville Fire Protection District..... 13

    Carlotta Volunteer Fire Department ..... 14

    Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department ..... 15

    Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Department ..... 16

    Garberville Fire Protection District ..... 17

    Miranda Volunteer Fire Department ..... 18

    Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department ..... 19

    Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Department ..... 20

    Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company ..... 21

    Redway Fire Protection District ..... 22

    Rio Dell Fire Protection District ..... 23

    Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company ..... 24

    Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department ..... 25

Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company.....	26
Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department.....	27
Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company .....	28
Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department.....	29
Humboldt County Third District .....	30
Arcata Fire Protection District .....	31
Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department.....	32
Kneeland Volunteer Fire Protection District .....	33
Humboldt County Fourth District .....	34
Humboldt Bay Fire.....	35
Samoa Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department.....	36
Humboldt County Fifth District.....	37
Fieldbrook Volunteer Fire Department .....	38
Hoopa Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services .....	39
Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue.....	40
Orick Volunteer Fire Department .....	41
Orleans Volunteer Fire Department.....	42
Trinidad Battalion CSA #4 (Amador Program).....	43
Trinidad Volunteer Fire Department .....	44
Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department.....	45
Willow Creek Volunteer Fire Department.....	46
Yurok Fire Department.....	47
Yurok Volunteer Fire Company .....	48
County, State, and Federal Fire Services in Humboldt County.....	49
Arcata/Eureka Airport Fire Hall .....	49
CAL FIRE Humboldt-Del Norte Unit.....	50
US Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest.....	51
Humboldt County Emergency Medical Services, Technical Rescue, and Disaster Response Groups.....	52
Eel River Valley Technical Rescue Team.....	52
Southern Humboldt County Technical Rescue Team .....	53
Humboldt Urban Search and Rescue.....	54
Hazardous Materials Response Team.....	55
North Coast Emergency Medical Services .....	56

## 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

## 2020 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 2020. 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 2020 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 November 2021.

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.

The last few years have seen unprecedented wildfires including the August Complex in 2020 which burned over 1 million acres and required an historic evacuation mobilization in southeastern Humboldt. To make matters worse, Humboldt County and California are experiencing an extreme drought, resulting in hot, dry conditions that increase wildfire risk and increase demand on local fire services to assist state resources and/or respond to local ignitions. In addition, a global pandemic brought many vital industries and services to a standstill; made it virtually impossible to hold traditional fire service fundraisers; and limited the ability to meaningfully host training events.

Even absent these regional and global crises, 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.

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 and levels and types of training opportunities, including fire academy, driver-operator training, and other ongoing skill building.

- Ever increasing mandatory requirements and standards.
- Limited administrative capacity to address growing organizational requirements.
- Limited pre-fire planning resources such as response-area maps and pre-fire attack plans.
- Barriers to seamless coordination and communication.
- A lack of capital to cover growing expenses, including:
  - The replacement of aging safety equipment and apparatus,
  - Dispatch fees and communication infrastructure improvements,
  - Insurance and worker’s compensation,
  - Training, and
  - 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.

None of the challenges facing local service providers will be easily overcome, but over the past two years<sup>1</sup>, 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to produce a 2019 Annual Report.

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 HCFCA 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 HCFCA in collaboration, where applicable, with a Fire Services Ad Hoc committee of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors which was formed in April 2019. Grant funds are used to support a technical 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 HCFCA is working closely with the county and property owners to ensure these changes are backed by a sustainable source of revenue. In 2019, the 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. See this report’s cover story for more details.

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; sustained COVID-19 response; and coordinated wildfire prevention and suppression within Humboldt County and beyond.

# 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](http://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.
  - The local service needs of the Hoopa and Upper Yurok Reservations are provided by a combination of Tribal fire departments and volunteer companies at varying levels. Hoopa Volunteer Fire and Rescue is a VFC that provides services to the Hoopa Valley Reservation. The Yurok Volunteer Fire Department is a local fire company which, when active, provides fire and EMS/rescue services to the Upper Yurok Reservation. An update to the Yurok Volunteer Fire Department page is not included in this report because its activity status is unknown. In addition, the Hoopa and Yurok Tribes, each has a chartered stand-alone fire department that is solely operated and managed by their respective Tribe and are both national resources responding across the nation to assist local, state, and federal agencies when requested.
  - Other tribal communities receive local fire and EMS/rescue services in a variety of ways.
    - Some rancherias are within the jurisdictional boundaries of an existing special district. This includes the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria and the Table Bluff Rancheria (served by Loleta FPD) and the Big Lagoon Rancheria (served by County Service Area #4-CAL FIRE Amador).

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

## Federal and State Fire Protection Map Description

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

Local fire service in Humboldt County, although primarily responsible for community fire protection, plays a pivotal role in wildfire management within the SRA and FRA. Local firefighters train and are equipped for wildfire response, often being called to assist CAL FIRE during wildfires. Local firefighting resources respond from over fifty locations throughout the county, so they can be well situated to supplement CAL FIRE, which may have a longer response time. Local firefighters are frequently the first on the 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.

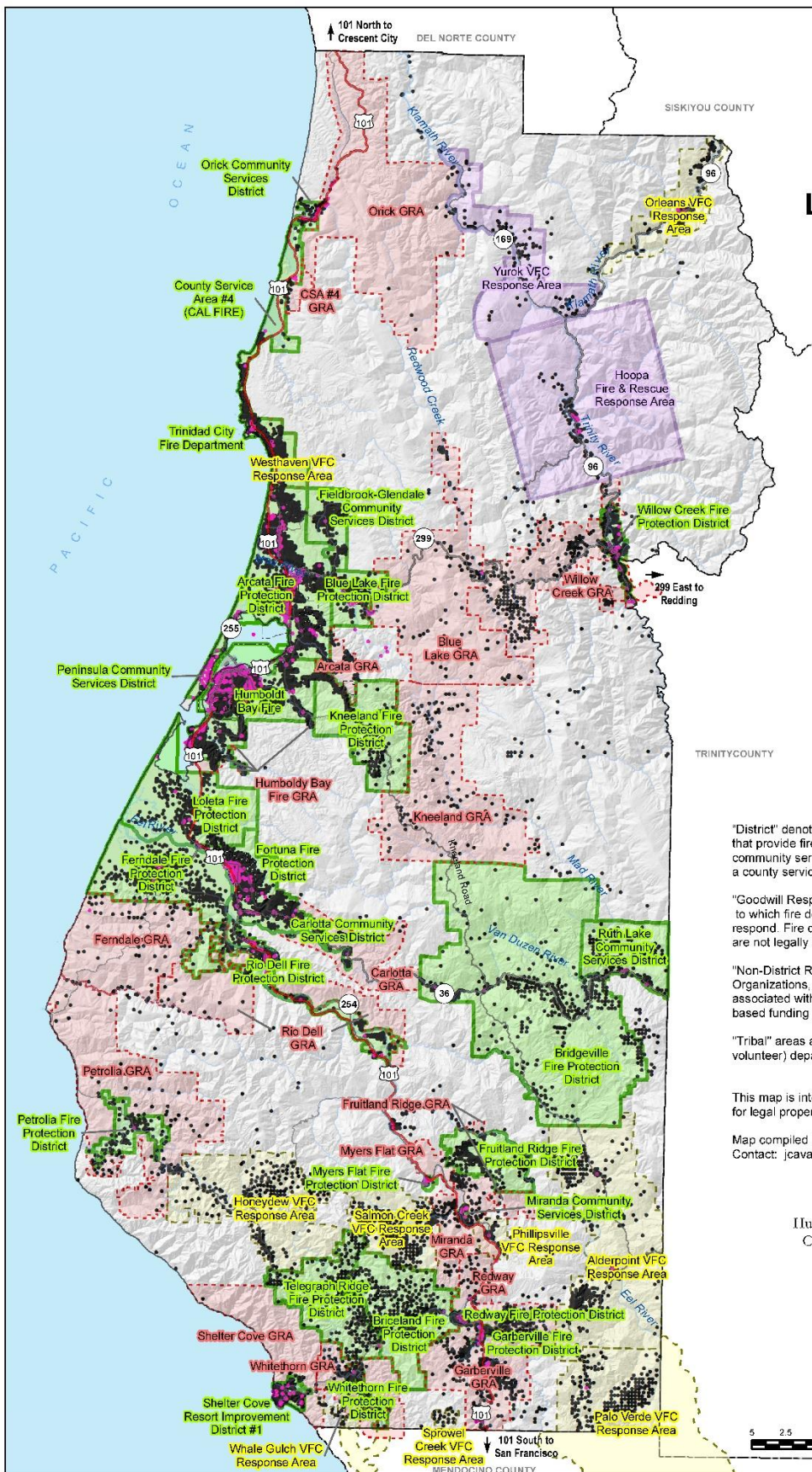
"Goodwill Response Areas" are areas outside of district boundaries to which fire departments, associated with a district, currently respond. Fire districts do not receive funding for these areas and are not legally obligated to respond.

"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](mailto: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

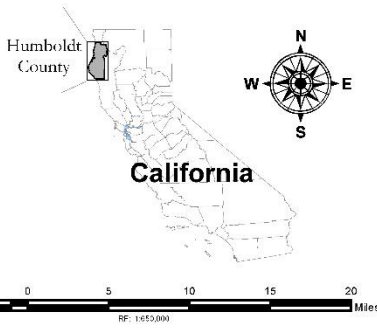
**Emergency Response**

- 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](mailto:jcavalli1@co.humboldt.ca.us)



# Incident Response Summary

The following page provides graphic illustrations of types of responses provided during the 2020 calendar year. There are two pie charts—one for local agencies and one for state and federal agencies—which illustrate total 2020 fire service responses with percentages for each recorded category. It is interesting to note that, for local agency fire service calls, **57 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.

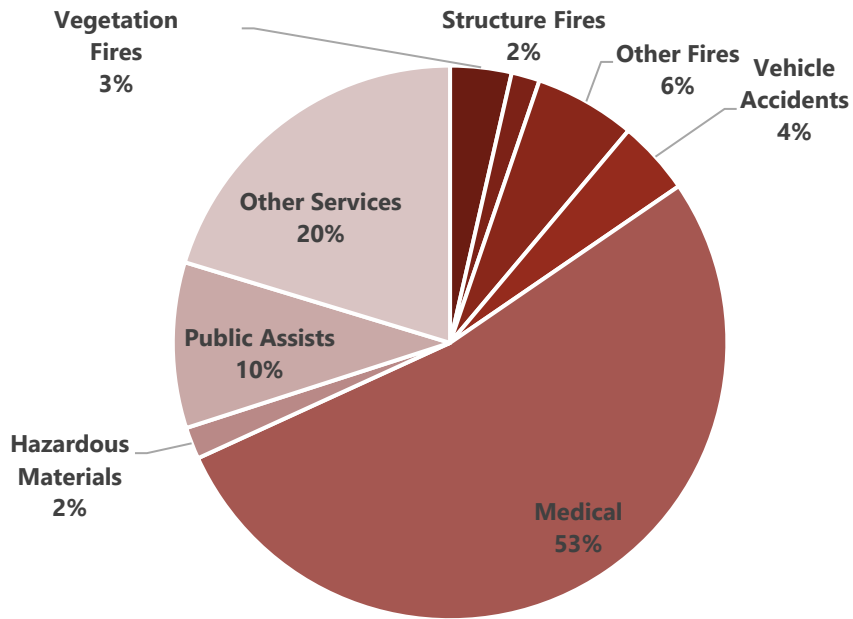
Volunteer hours contributed by all local service providers is also summarized by various categories including time spent responding to incidents, training, maintaining equipment and facilities, and fundraising. A total of 102,422 volunteer hours were reported in 2020. This is likely an underestimate 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	36,470
Training	37,407
Volunteer Ride Along	1,971
Maintenance	13,693
Fundraising	12,881
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>102,422</b>

**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.



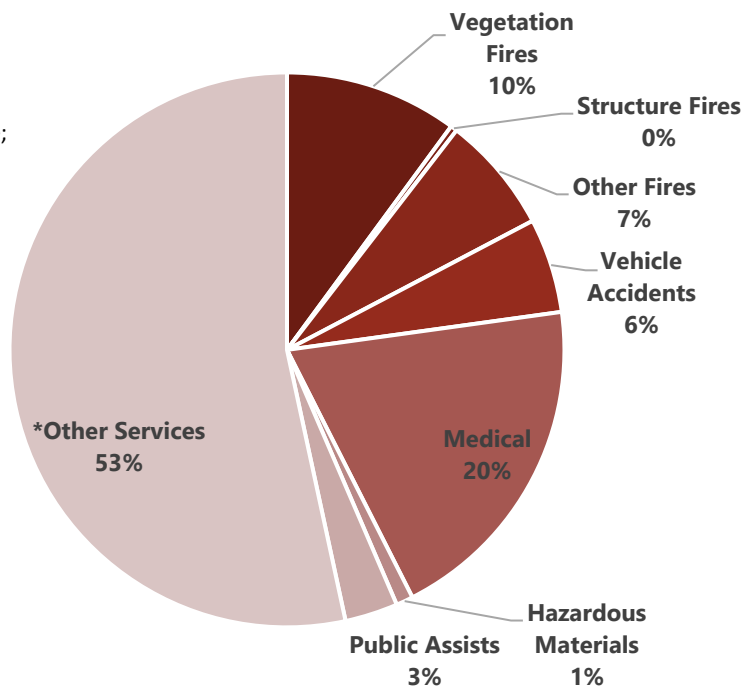
## 2020 Local Agency Incident Responses



**Total Responses: 15,111**

## 2020 State & Federal Agency Incident Responses

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



**Total Responses: 1,815**

# Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Associations: Working Together

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:nick@sheltercove-ca.gov)

**Vice President:** Assistant Chief  
Alfred Williams  
Garberville Fire Department

## Additional Officers:

**Treasurer:** Chris Fisher, Palo Verde VFD

**Secretary:** Cheryl Antony, Shelter Cove VFD

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



*Multiagency training in the new Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue building provided by Measure Z.*

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.

The SHFCA recognizes that Southern Humboldt communities need to be informed about the issues surrounding wildfires, structure fires, emergencies, and disaster preparedness. One of the tools used to inform the public is the "Burning Issues" fire and rescue radio talk show on KMUD FM radio. This show provides the SHFCA an opportunity to voice information to the public about training, prevention, standards, legislation, grant writing, and new initiatives and innovations. The show takes place on the fifth Sunday of any month with five Sundays, 1:30 pm. to 3:00 pm.



*New fire training tower in Redway provided by Measure Z.*

# 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 six volunteer fire departments—including Rio Dell, Ferndale, Loleta, Fortuna, Carlotta, and Bridgeville and is responsible for the development and direction of the Eel River Valley Technical Resource 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. Soon to be a reality, the ERV training facility will be located centrally in Fortuna and will include 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. The Fire Chiefs of the Eel River Valley Fire Departments 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.



*ERV training tower (before)*



*ERV training tower (after)*

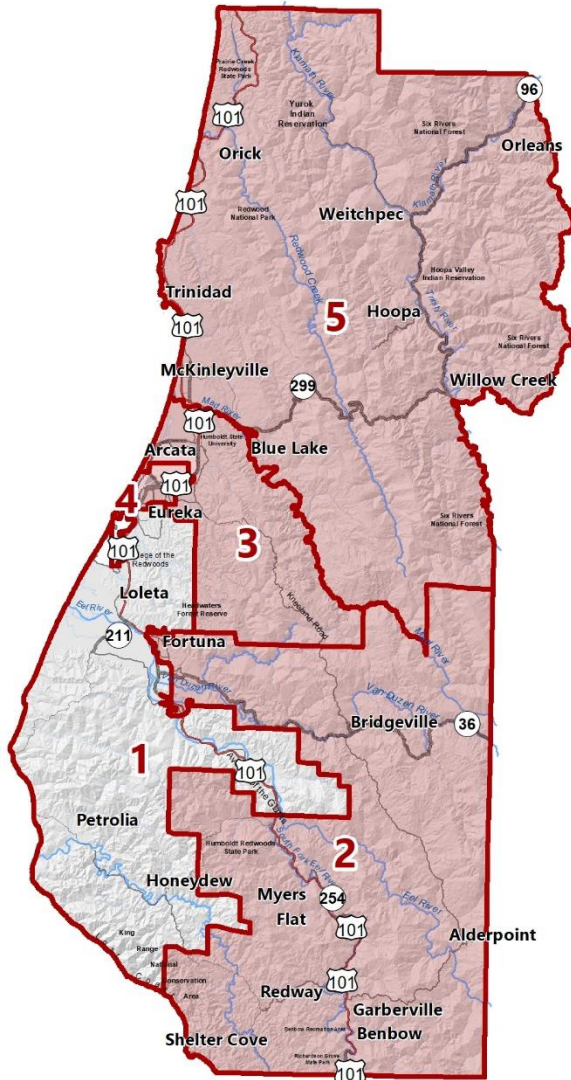
# Humboldt County First District

Supervisor Rex Bohn

825 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:chief@ferndalefire.org)  
[ferndalefire.org](http://ferndalefire.org)



The Ferndale Volunteer Fire Department (FVFD) provides firefighting services for the Ferndale Fire Protection District (FFPD). The FFPD covers a 42 square mile area containing the City of Ferndale, and outlying areas. The FVFD was founded in 1897 and is now comprised of 26 active members including Chief, two Assistant Chiefs, and company officers. The department's equipment and meeting hall are housed in two buildings, both on Brown Street. The historic Fire Hall, built in 1910 and a newer building 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.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
5	6	13	10	132	9	24	17
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>216</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
5,000	1,000	230	100	26		15	

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

# Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company

**Chief:** Peter Marshall

**Asst. Chief:** Lars Samuels

PO Box 74

Honeydew, CA 95545

707-499-2061

[honeydew@asis.com](mailto:honeydew@asis.com)

[honeydewfire.com](http://honeydewfire.com)



## 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. We have two remaining FEPP Kaiser Engines and would like to replace one with a fourth newer initial attack 4-wheel-drive Type-6 engine. Completing the construction of the Panther Gap engine station is also a 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 separate, 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), a 2003 Ford F-550, 2000 Ford F-450, and a 2008 Ford F-550, all three are Type-6 engines. 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. 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
2	4	0	5	13	0	0	7
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>31</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,000	500	400	1,000	14		5	

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

# Loleta Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Ken Nielsen

**Asst. Chief:** Jeff Robison

**Asst. Chief:** Jennifer Renner

PO Box 766

Loleta, CA 95551

707-845-3090

[loletafire@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:loletafire@suddenlinkmail.com)



The Loleta Volunteer Fire Department provides firefighting services to the Loleta Fire Protection District, which was formed in 1900 and currently has 23 active members. We currently 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:

Our goal is to build our number of volunteers up to 30. We also need to recruit more volunteers who don't work outside of the district and can be available for daytime calls.

Due to COVID-19, we were unable to hold our fundraisers which include the Loleta Antique Show, Pit BBQ, and Annual Flea Market. Thanks to Measure Z we received wildland and structure turnouts to replace some of our aging sets.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
14	14	20	35	162	2	29	37
						<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>313</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,370	1,150	375	900	23		0	

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

# Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Travis C. Howe  
**Captain:** Drew Barber

58 Sherman Street  
 PO Box 169  
 Petrolia, CA 95558

707-629-3558  
[PetroliaFire@frontiernet.net](mailto:PetroliaFire@frontiernet.net)  
[www.petroliafire.org](http://www.petroliafire.org)



The Petrolia Volunteer Fire Department (PVFD) provides firefighting services to the Petrolia Fire Protection District (PFPD) and outlying areas.

Our apparatus include 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 purchased a vehicle stabilizing and extraction tool with Measure Z funding.

For as much as we give to this community, they give back. Two examples are the outstanding turnout and generosity we receive at our yearly BBQ and auction. This is in addition to the many miscellaneous donations we receive throughout the year.

**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.

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.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
3	2	1	2	24	0	6	5
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>43</b>
Volunteer Hours (2018)				Personnel (2018)			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,250	2,250	600	900	23		5	

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

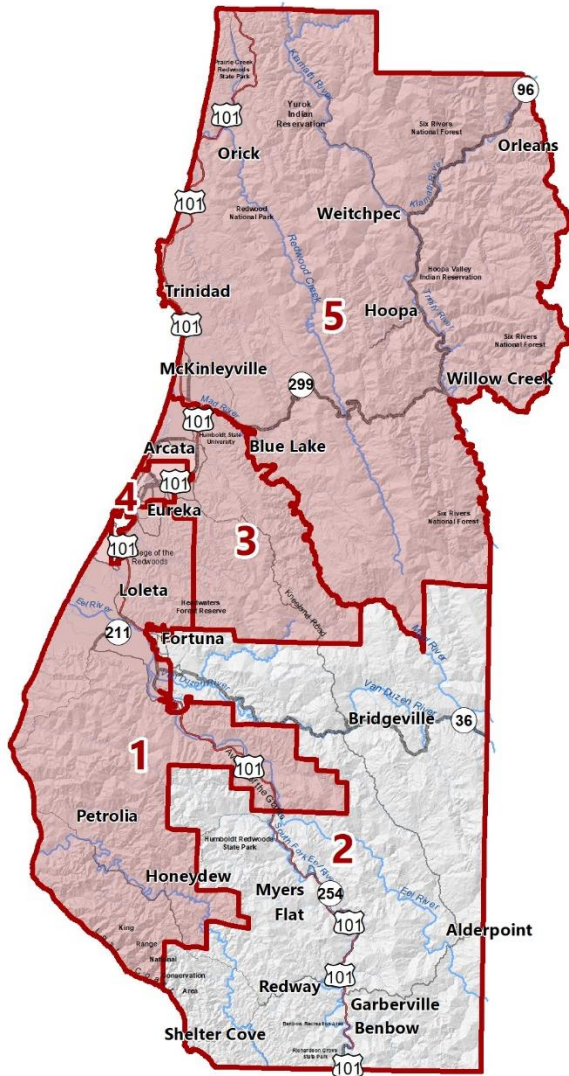
# Humboldt County Second District

Supervisor Michelle Bushnell

825 5th Street

Eureka, California 95501

Phone: 707-476-2392



## Fire Departments:

**Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Company**

**Briceland Volunteer Fire Department**

**Bridgeville Fire Protection District**

**Carlotta Volunteer Fire Department**

**Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department**

**Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Department**

**Garberville Fire Protection District**

**Miranda Volunteer Fire Department**

**Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department**

**Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Company**

**Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company**

**Redway Fire Protection District**

**Rio Dell Volunteer Fire Department**

**Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company**

**Shelter Cove Volunteer Fire Department**

**Sprovel Creek Volunteer Fire Company**

**Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department**

**Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company**

**Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department**

# 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](mailto: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.

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
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>52</b>
Volunteer Hours (2018)				Personnel (2018)			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,910	1,150	-	435	17		3	

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

# 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

[www.bricelandfire.org](http://www.bricelandfire.org)

[bricelandfire@gmail.com](mailto:bricelandfire@gmail.com)



### Challenges & Needs:

While we have the funds necessary to accomplish the first phase of construction, we will need to raise the balance to finish and outfit our new fire station.

Briceland Volunteer Fire Department (BVFD) is a small, rural, community-based volunteer fire department providing critical fire, rescue, and emergency medical response to our community. The Briceland district covers approximately 40 square miles of winding county road and a web of often-steep dirt roads and includes the small village of Briceland and hundreds of rural homesteads nestled amongst the forest- and grassland of southern Humboldt County.



BVFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County and participates in the countywide fire protection mutual aid agreement and has an active role in the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team. In 2020, we maintained 16 emergency medical responders and four emergency medical technicians on our roster, and utilized



one 4WD Type-1 engine, two 4WD Type-3 engines, one Type-6 engine, one 1500-gallon capacity Type-3 water tender, and one 4WD command/EMS vehicle. The Department is financially supported by community contributions, fundraising events, work on CAL FIRE cover assignments, and revenue from the Briceland Fire

Protection District special tax. We also completed plans to build our new and long-awaited fire station and worked to get the downtown Briceland lot ready to break ground in the spring of 2021. Construction is being aided by a contribution from Measure Z funding. Briceland Volunteer Fire Department is proud to serve our community.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
4	0	1	2	4	1	4	10
						<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>26</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
111	811	100	250	31		21	

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

# Bridgeville Fire Protection District

**Chief:** Randall (Scott) Katzdorn  
**Asst. Chief:** Brandon Barnwell

P.O. Box 4  
 Bridgeville, CA 95526

707-777-3424

[bridgevilleVFD@gmail.com](mailto: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
6	0	15	21	44	4	1	0
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>91</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
740	819	140	115	10		0	

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

# 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](mailto: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.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
9	2	10	17	51	2	3	4
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>98</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
500	260	180	100	12		0	

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

# Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Lon Winburn  
**Div. Chief-Ops:** Rus Brown  
**Div. Chief-Safety:** Jim Hinrichs

320 S. Fortuna Blvd.  
 Fortuna, CA 95540

707-725-5021  
[info@fortunafire.com](mailto: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, three Division Chiefs, a Chaplain, five Captains, ten Lieutenants, and sixty Firefighters. Volunteers respond from three fire stations—Hydesville, Campton Heights, and Fortuna, which house five fire engines, two ladder trucks, two water tenders, two rescue trucks, and support vehicles.

### Challenges & Needs:

Trends in the volunteer fire service continue to create hardships in maintaining emergency response levels throughout our county. All of our fire departments are challenged with finding new and creative ways to assure we are ready to respond at any given time and for any need that arises. The support that we have received from our communities through various funding measures and the continued collaboration with the Board of Supervisors and County Staff have been significant. However, the battle still rages as needs from our communities increase and staffing levels/volunteer membership become consistently harder to maintain. That being said, we will continue to do our best to provide services.

*"Always Ready – Always Willing".*

Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Other Services
17	17	78	82	813	30	233
					Total Responses	<b>1,270</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Career	Volunteer	Auxiliary
2,921	3,111	200	200	3	77	22

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

# Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Jimi Hensley

75 Kelsey Lane  
PO Box 87  
Myers Flat, CA 95554

707-932-1484



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.



### 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.

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.

Incident Responses								
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services	
4	3	2	1	18	1	1	2	
						<b>Total Responses</b>		<b>32</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel				
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary		
220	260	200	40	6		10		

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

# 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](mailto: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 17 dedicated individuals and the department is a 100% volunteer organization. The department also recently acquired a new 3,000-gallon water tender (#5756).

### 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.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
12	11	66	24	163	5	13	3
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>297</b>
<b>Volunteer Hours (2018)</b>				<b>Personnel</b>			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,460	868	130	30	17		-	

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

# 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
17	10	21	17	35	4	0	6
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>110</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
3,950	1500	-	50	12		4	

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

# Myers Flat Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Tom Mulder

PO Box 131  
Myers Flat, CA 95554

707-350-3813  
[myersflatvfd@gmail.com](mailto: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 fulltime. 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.

MFVFD contracts out for one four-day weekend each summer and heads up the fire protection crew for a music festival in Northern Mendocino County. COVID-19 has affected the musical festival, but we are hoping things start back up soon. We currently have six volunteers, and anyone seriously interested in volunteering and training is welcome.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
0	0	3	4	4	0	0	0
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>11</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
20	150	50	10	6		1	

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

# 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 3,000, 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 12 first responders and 13 wildland firefighters.

In 2020, the PVVFD was able to replace our quick attack/medical response vehicle thanks to \$60,000 from Measure Z funds and public donations. We were also able to replace our 1975 water tender with a newer 2,000-gallon model purchased from Briceland VFD with generous donations from the community.

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.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
1	0	3	2	5	2	0	0
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>13</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
350	200	100	100	20		15	

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

# 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 2020. 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
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>0</b>
<b>Volunteer Hours (Not Reported)</b>				<b>Personnel</b>			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
-	-	-	-	2		0	

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

# Redway Fire Protection District

**Chief:** Brian Anderson  
**Asst. Chief:** Brian Harper  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief:** Pete Genolio

155 Empire Avenue  
 PO Box 695  
 Redway, CA 95560

707-923-2617  
[redwayfire@gmail.com](mailto:redwayfire@gmail.com)



Established in 1958, the Redway Fire Protection District (RFPD) proudly serves our community and aids our neighboring communities in southern Humboldt County. The RFPD is funded by a percentage of property taxes generated within our defined district boundaries, partial reimbursement from Proposition 172 funding, and our annual deep pit BBQ. Our all-volunteer district provides year-round fire protection, emergency medical response, traffic collision response, and extrication services. The RFPD fleet includes one utility pickup, two Type-1 fire engines, one Type-6 quick attack engine and one 2000-gallon water tender. This year was especially challenging due to the August Complex fire. Although out of our district, our personnel and apparatus were requested to assist in keeping this historic fire at bay and out of Humboldt County. As a result, our 2020 emergency response hours are significantly higher than in years past.

Due to continued Measure Z allocations to support fire service, Redway FPD will be the proud recipient of a state-of-the-art modular training facility. We have collaborated with CAL FIRE and leased a parcel of land located at the Eel River Conservation Camp where the training structure will be located. We anticipate making this facility available to all our public safety partners to enhance our firefighting capabilities and preparedness. The members of the RFPD 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
22	12	30	20	57	2	19	14
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>176</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
2,569	619	360	380	16		0	

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

# Rio Dell Fire Protection District

**Chief:** Shane Wilson

**1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief:** Ryan Heussler

**2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief:** Josh Miraglia

**3<sup>rd</sup> Asst. Chief:** John Broadstock

50 West Center St.  
Rio Dell, CA 95562

707-764-3329



The Rio Dell Fire Protection District was officially formed in 1941 as the "Wildwood Fire District" and later changed to its current title in 1963. In 2020, the District 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 District 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 District 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 District including the Fire Chief, three Assistant Chiefs, and the District Secretary. The Fire Chief oversees the day-to-day operations of the District and directs staffing assignments. The District 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 District is 100% volunteer with 38 firefighters who respond to over 600 calls per year.

**Challenges & Needs:**  
Station Needs  
 New Shively Station  
 Rio Dell Station Expansion to two bays  
 Scotia Station Bay Length Expansion

Apparatus Replacement  
 R7175 – 1990 Chevy Suburban  
 E7123 – 1972 International  
 E7114 – 1985 Peirce  
 E7134 – 1994 Freightliner

Equipment Needs  
 New Extrication Equipment  
 New Sawmill Industrial Rescue Equipment

<u>Main Office</u>	<u>Rio Dell Station</u>	<u>Scotia Station</u>	<u>Redcrest Station</u>	<u>Shively Station</u>
715 Wildwood Ave	50 West Center Street	145 Main Street	115 Sorenson Road	1245 Shively Flat Road
1 – Fire Command	22 – Volunteers	9 – Volunteers	4 – Volunteers	3 – Volunteers
1 – Duty Chief Utility	1 – Rescue	1 – Rescue	1 – Rescue	1 – Utility/ Quick Attack
1 – Asst. Chief Utility	3 – Engine Pumps	1 – Quick Attack Type 6	1 – Utility/ Quick Attack	1 – Engine Pumper
	1 – Water Tender	2 – Engine Pumps	1 – Engine Pumper	1 – Water Tender
		1 – ATV Rescue		
		2 – Tech Rescue Trailers		

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
11	4	43	24	231	13	38	8
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>372</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,250	1,750	150	575	28		6	

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

# Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company

**Chief:** Dan Gribi  
**Asst. Chief:** Joe Nolen

PO Box 662  
 Miranda, CA 95553

707-358-0000  
[salmoncreekfire@gmail.com](mailto:salmoncreekfire@gmail.com)



Salmon Creek is a remote community that is west of Miranda in Southern Humboldt County. We serve around 300 homes and a private school covering approximately 35 square miles. We are an all-volunteer fire department and have a crew of twelve dedicated volunteers. 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 newly acquired 2005 International 4wd Type-3 pumper. This engine has expanded our firefighting capability quite a bit and we're happy to have it. It was purchased due to generous donations from our community.

We are currently in the process of forming a Salmon Creek Fire Protection District which will provide a stable income source.



### Challenges & Needs:

We need more Type-6 Quick Attack engines distributed throughout our large area. More off-road capability is also needed to serve our rural area. Lastly, with an aging population, Salmon Creek needs more medically trained people and medical equipment.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
0	1	1	1	3	1	0	2
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>9</b>
Volunteer Hours (2018)				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
180	1,920	900	80	12		0	

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

# 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](mailto:scfd@sheltercove-ca.gov)

[sheltercove-ca.gov/fire/fire.htm](http://sheltercove-ca.gov/fire/fire.htm)



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 District covers 49 square miles with extensive response well beyond district boundaries. It includes over 600 homes, numerous businesses, nine hotel/motels, two popular beaches, and a public airport. The Department protects the District with five fire engines, one ALS/BLS ambulance, two ATV rescue units, and three ocean rescue units. The Shelter Cove Fire Department also owns battery-powered extrication sets, heavy lift airbags, and various other specialty equipment.

Shelter Cove Fire Department is dedicated to providing the utmost level of emergency medical care and fire rescue services to the residences and visitors of Shelter Cove. This is only possible through the dedication of our ten Firefighter First Responders, six firefighter EMTs, two paramedics/RNs, 20 CERT members, and one fulltime fire chief. 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 five minutes.

In 2020, the fire department took the lead in the community's response to COVID-19. The Shelter Cove Fire Department is extremely proud of how our community responded to the requests for social distancing and the overall commitment to community safety. This year also saw the completion of the Shelter Cove Community Emergency Notification System. This state-of-the-art notification system consists of six sirens strategically located throughout the community. In the event of a large wildfire or tsunami, we can send out an evacuation tone to a portion or entire community with the click of a mouse. Due to our rural location, resources to help with evacuation will be delayed if they can make it at all. These sirens maximize our ability to reach a large number of people quickly and are worth the cost if they can help to save just one life.

## Challenges & Needs

Shelter Cove is at 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, overgrown vegetation, and missing street signs, our evacuation routes are unsafe for emergency use in smoky conditions. Some challenges we continue to have are convincing absentee property owners to reduce fuel loads on undeveloped lots and preventing illegal grows that become toxic dumps when abandoned. Without a countywide 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.

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
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>165</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
1,053	2,381	144	48	18		1	

\*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



**Please note:** The developers of this report were able to confirm with representatives from Sprowel Creek VFC that there were no incident response calls in 2020. The VFC has had conversations with the Garberville FPD about a potential consolidation/annexation. All other content is based on information reported in 2018 or earlier.

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 include 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.

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

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

# Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Peter Lawsky

PO Box 1152

707-223-3262

**Asst. Chief:** Will Rogers

Redway, CA 95560

Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department has gone through significant changes in 2020. Our new fire station structure is complete and in use, but unfinished and still in need of wiring, electrical fixtures, and storage. With property payments due to Southern Humboldt Unified School District totaling \$30,000 annually, our total financial obligations exceeded our property tax fee and our ability to raise money. We went to the voters in our fire district, proposing Measure U, a modest increase in the annual property fee (from \$30 to \$85). Eighty-one percent of voters supported our proposition, a gratifying response. While this provides enough income to pay our basic bills, we must seek grants and fundraise to maintain equipment and complete our firehouse.

### Challenges & Needs:

Our biggest issue is still financial. We have had mechanical problems with our engines that are more expensive than expected. There are also a variety of large expenses related to firehouse construction. The fire district board of directors, along with the fire company members, continue to work on fundraising efforts, including direct appeals, participating in events, and applying for grants.



Travis Strange (red helmet) instructing trainees

We lost a number of our crew in 2020, including our longtime assistant fire chief, Travis Strange, who passed away. Travis was our training instructor, part time mechanic, and a key member of our department. He is greatly missed.

We have four new recruits who are enthusiastic about our department. Four Telegraph Ridge members graduated from the four-day Fire Fighter II class this spring. Three members completed the Fire Truck Driving and Operations class. We have our same apparatus: two Type-3 wildland pumpers, two Type-6

Quick Attack vehicles and a 1500-gallon water tender. We continue to drill, train, and prepare for an active wildland fire season. Our biggest challenge continues to be raising enough money to complete our firehouse, maintain our apparatus, and purchase fuel and necessary equipment.

Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Public Assistance	Other Services
6	0	1	5	9	5	0
					<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>26</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	
184	1,680	80	670	10	1	

\*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

76850B Usal Road  
Whitethorn, CA 95589

707-986-1219 (Mike)  
707-986-9949 (Kyle)  
[whalegulchvfc@gmail.com](mailto:whalegulchvfc@gmail.com)



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 toolshed in our community meadow, to a firehouse with three engines: two Type-3 engines, both carrying 500 gallons, and a newer Quick Attack, which carries 280 gallons. Our new volunteers are catching up on their trainings, 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 received a grant from the California Fire Foundation to outfit our side by side with water pump and patient extrication support for hard-to-reach areas. We will not be having our annual bake sale, but you can purchase our merchandise at Whitethorn Construction, or you can send donations to our address listed above.

Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Public Assistance	Other Services
5	0	0	0	4	0	1
					<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>10</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	
150	150	75	250	20	0	

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

# Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Robert Puno  
**Asst. Chief:** Kent Grigsmiller

PO Box 485  
 Whitethorn, CA 95589

707-986-4103  
[whitethorn.fire@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Challenges & Needs:

One challenge we face is inadequate mapping of our community/response area. Improved mapping of roads and address would help reduce response times. We are also in need of more volunteers and a water tender.

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 a 1000-gallon Type-2 pumper (E5320).

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

This last year, we finished our expansion of Station #1 and are hoping to house a water tender there in the near future. We also had the opportunity, through Measure Z, to host an amazing training with Chris Mills on extrication and received all new updated extrication gear to put on our engine! We have also been working to compile our neighbors' addresses and important fire information to give out as part of an evacuation information packet. This project is helping better serve our community and protect our neighbors.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
2	0	1	2	10	0	1	4
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>20</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Fundraising		Volunteer	Auxiliary		
50	350	100		11	0		

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

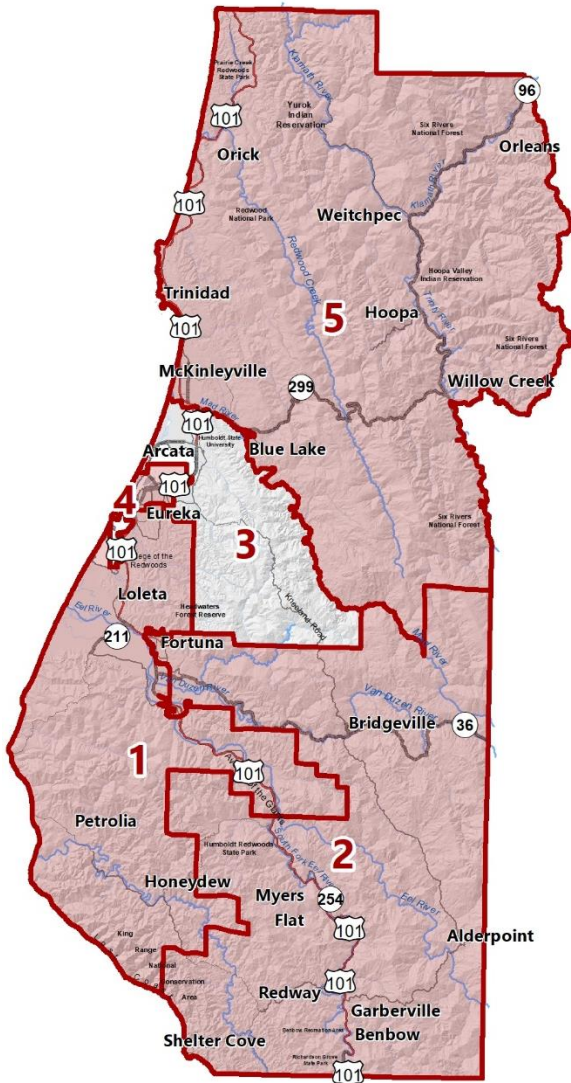
# Humboldt County Third District

Supervisor Mike Wilson

825 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Eureka, California 95501

Phone: (707) 476-2393



## Fire Departments:

Arcata Fire Protection District

Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department

Kneeland Volunteer Fire Department

# Arcata Fire Protection District

**Chief:** Justin McDonald

**Battalion Chief:** Sean Campbell

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 District serves the 36,000 residents living in the city of Arcata and the communities of McKinleyville, Bayside, Manila and Jacoby Creek operating three fire stations with two firefighters on-duty at each location; the Arcata Station, the Mad River Station, and the McKinleyville Station.

This past year, 2020, was an impactful year for the District including the employees, volunteers, and community members. For the last several years, the District has operated in deficit spending just to maintain minimum staffing and basic operations. On April 21, 2020, following a failed attempt to secure a funding measuring (Measure R), the District was forced to brownout one of the three stations and reduce staffing. This resulted in the District being more reliant on the neighboring agencies who have continued to support our incident responses through mutual aid agreements.

**Challenges & Needs:**  
 Due to budget constraints, the District was forced to brownout one of the three stations in 2020. However, with the passing of Measure F in November 2020, funding will be available in 2022 to support the reopening of the third station.

The District endeavored another funding measure attempt in November 2020 and this time was successful with 75.4% approval from the voters. Even with the passing of Measure F, the District will not receive the new tax funding until January 2022. It is anticipated that the third station will re-open mid-2022.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other Services
62	57	121	79	1,533	46	494	836
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>3,228</b>
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>				<b>Personnel</b>			
Incident	Training	Vol. Ride-along	Volunteer	Career	Auxiliary		
385	1,260	790	5	22	10		

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

# Blue Lake Volunteer Fire Department

**Fire Chief:** David Vainuku  
**Asst. Chief:** Greg Perry

PO Box 245  
 Blue Lake, CA 95525

707-668-5765

[blchief@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:blchief@suddenlinkmail.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. We hope to find additional funding to build a facility to keep our fire engines out of the weather.

*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 21 volunteers and one fulltime employee. This year we hope to complete 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
23	16	36	28	157	4	5	48
<b>Total Responses:</b>							<b>317</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Career	Auxiliary	
2,136	1,764	192	548	21	1	0	

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

# Kneeland Volunteer Fire Protection District

**Fire Chief:** Wesley Row

6201 Greenwood Heights Drive  
Kneeland, CA 95549  
[kneelandfire.org](http://kneelandfire.org)

**Office:** 707-442-3252

**Cell:** 707-599-4985

[wrow@kneelandfire.org](mailto:wrow@kneelandfire.org)



Kneeland Volunteer Fire Department is an all-volunteer Department providing fire, medical, and rescue services to the communities of Kneeland, 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 is focused on training personnel while working with volunteers to find a balance between work, family, life and pursuing greater education with the Department. More than half of our staff are certified EMTs as well as being certified in many other areas with California State Fire Training. We currently operate three Type-1 Fire Engines, one Water Tender, one Type-4 Rescue Engine, and one Duty Officer Pickup.

Kneeland Fire has seen a tremendous amount of growth and improvement over the past several years through modernization of equipment and apparatus, training, and the completion of our station. These advancements have largely been achieved due to the support of Measure Z which has helped fund many of our improvements. We are also thankful to our community for their generous support as well as 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, training for our personnel, and steady progress on the next phases of our station and facilities.

### Challenges & Needs:

Unfortunately, fire departments across the nation have been sounding the alarm due to low staffing levels and the lack of new recruits to fill volunteer firefighter positions. This has also been the situation for Kneeland over the past few years. Our current group of volunteers are motivated and highly dedicated to our department, but we have been struggling to find new recruits and the pandemic has only made this a bigger challenge. We hope with renewed advertisement, outreach, new ideas, and interaction with our community that we can increase our numbers in the future.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Hazardous Conditions	Public Assists	Other Services
3	4	3	6	16	2	2	14
						<b>Total Responses</b>	
						<b>50</b>	
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Chief's Admin.	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
364	2,050	200	576	9		0	

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

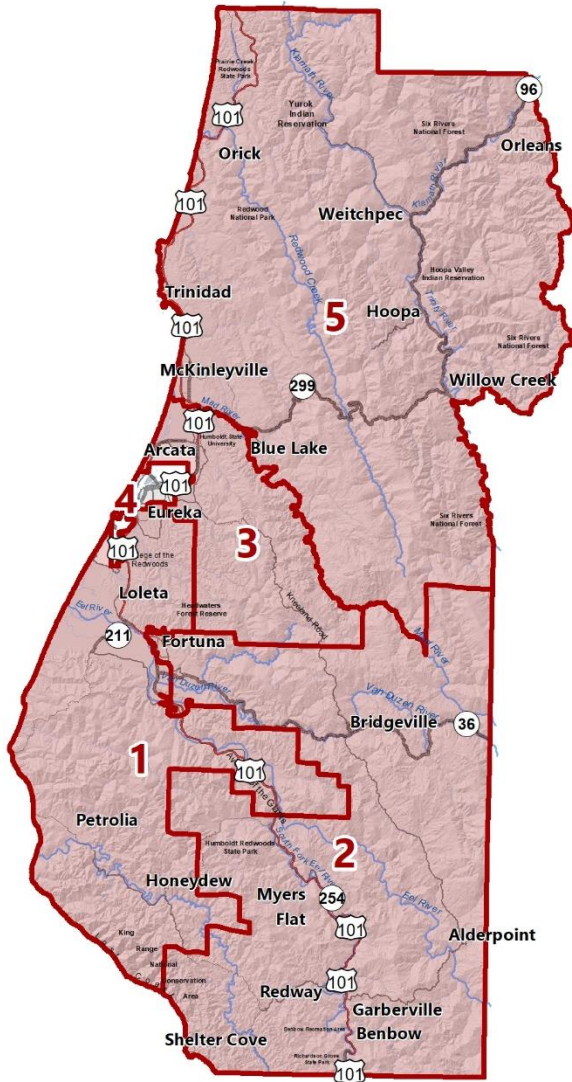
# Humboldt County Fourth District

## Supervisor Virginia Bass

825 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@HBFire.org)

[HBFire.org](http://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 steadily 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
48	46	336	161	3,769	120	696	1,442
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>6,618</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident		Training		Volunteer		Career	
50 (Fire Support)		0 (COVID-19 effect)		5		53	

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

# Samoa Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Dale Unea  
**Battalion Chief:** Troy Smith

1982 Gass St.  
 Fairhaven, CA 95564

707-443-9042  
[samoafire.org](http://samoafire.org)  
[samoavfd@gmail.com](mailto:samoavfd@gmail.com)



*Chief Bob Durfee*  
 1941-2021

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). The District provides services 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 six miles of recreational beach and bay.

Our apparatus includes a 2004 Pierce Type-1 (8614), a 1987 Ford C8000 Type-1 (8612), a 1989 International Type-3 (8632), a 2002 Ford F-350 (8600), a 2005 Toyota 4x4 (8601).

**Challenges & Needs:**  
 With the COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunities for fundraising were virtually nonexistent. It also made it impossible to recruit new volunteers.

Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medicals	Other	Mutual-Aid Calls
28	4	14	6	28	10	91
<b>Total Responses</b>						<b>181</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	
465	2,189	1,000+	0	10	2	

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

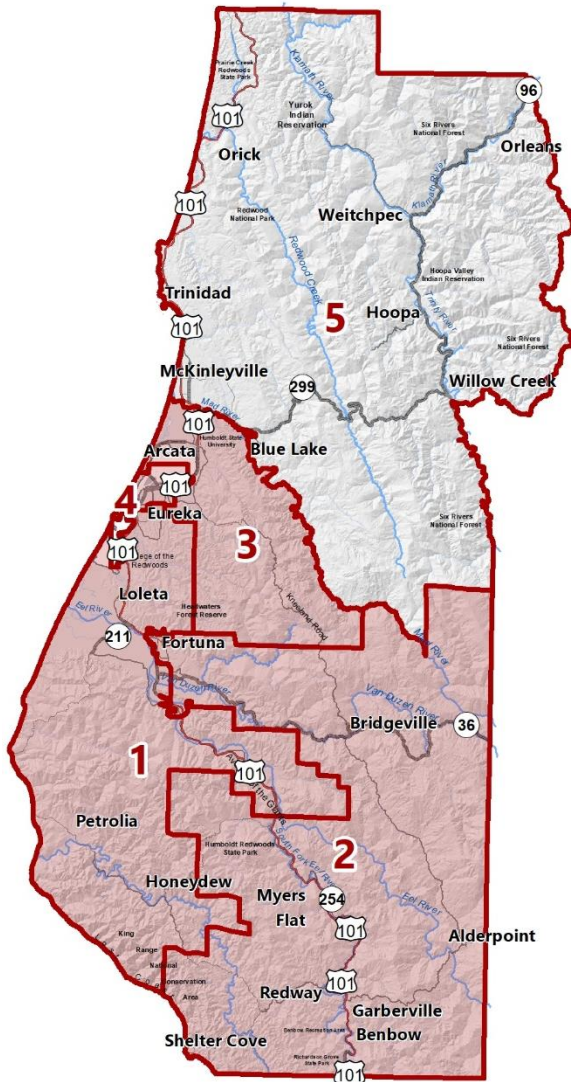
# Humboldt County Fifth District

Supervisor Steve Madrone

825 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://fieldbrookfire.org)

[fieldbrookfd@gmail.com](mailto: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
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>121</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
2,596	1,200	1,695	450	18		0	

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

# Hoopa Fire Department and Office of Emergency Services

**Chief of Fire and OES:**  
 Gregory Moon  
**Division Chief-Fire:**  
 Raldon Brown

**OES Coordinator**  
 Vacant

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 two Type-4 engines 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
168	0	0	0	0	0	0	78
						<b>Total Responses</b>	
						<b>246</b>	
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Full Time	Temporary	Seasonal	
-	-	-	-	12	10	8	

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

# 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](mailto: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.

### 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.

Our numerous certified Swiftwater rescue technicians, high/low angle rope rescue operators, and extensive knowledge of our surrounding backcountry and rivers helps us to 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.

COVID-19 Has had a very negative impact on our community and department. Numerous members have resigned or have been unable to respond due to the rate of transmission of COVID-19.

Incident Responses*						
Search & Rescue	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Traffic Collision	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Community Services
9	26	13	11	7	2	16
					<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>84</b>
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:** James Simmons

**Assistant Chief:** Neal Youngblood

**Captains:** Judy Hagood & Steven Baker

101 Swan Road  
Orick, CA 95555

707-834-6162  
[Jamesh1168@yahoo.com](mailto:Jamesh1168@yahoo.com)



***Please note:** The developers of this report were not able to confirm updated details with representatives from Orick VFD. Incident response numbers for 2020 are derived from CAL FIRE dispatch and all other content is based on information reported in 2018 or earlier.*

### 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. We are also in need of a newer set of Jaws of Life for vehicle accidents.

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

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), and a 1998 F-450 4x4 pickup truck that carries water and a Jaws-of-Life, and a rescue van that also carries a Jaws-of-Life.

The OVFD is made up of 12 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 have training for two hours a week, with part of that training for equipment maintenance. 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
0	1	13	14	113	3	23	2
						<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>169</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
300	300	150	200	12		0	

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

# 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
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>89</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Support	
987	739	2,624	3,984	16		3	

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

# 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](mailto: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
5	10	12	10	92	3	4	0
						<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>136</b>
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](mailto: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
2	0	1	1	37	0	2	8
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>51</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
102	96	312	0	6		0	

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

# Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Shawn Worth

**1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief:** Neil Foreman

**2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief:** Matthew Marshall

446 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue

PO Box 2143

Westhaven, CA 95570

**Station:** 707-677-0388

**Chief:** 707-498-5137

[8400@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto: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.

The past year, 2020, brought challenges and surprise gifts. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all of our regular fundraising activities were put on hold, but the County and some other major supporters kicked in some serious donations to see us through. Four new recruits successfully completed Fire Academy and have been doing a great job on fire and medical calls alike.

### Challenges & Needs:

Our main challenge is refurbishing our aging fire station and hall. Both buildings are in need of new roofs and other maintenance in order to keep our apparatus, equipment, and hall safe from the elements.

We are super grateful to the many people who mail in donations and send us sweet cards and notes—we are only able to do what we love to do with the support of those we do it for, so many thanks go out to our greater Westhaven community. Our biannual newsletter, The Fire Call, keeps the community informed about WVFD happenings, and has its own set of dedicated fans. As we go forward into 2021, we are continuing hall kitchen improvements, and refurbishing all buildings on our property, including our community-beloved Westhaven Post Office.

Fingers crossed our good friends the “Pie Ladies” of Westhaven Ladies Club will be able to safely return to our kitchen in winter 2021/22 to bake their famous blackberry pies and make their famous jams. Mark your calendar for the last Sunday in July of 2022 and we’ll see you in Westhaven.

Challenges for the Department include refurbishing our aging fire station. We are in the queue to receive some Measure Z funds to help; this, combined with ongoing generous community donations from the folks we serve, appear to be merging together in the very near future to resolve this challenge. We have noticed the national trend of declining volunteerism locally as our membership over the past decade and a half has dropped under our normal roster. The past year brought us a number of new recruits, and we hope this trend of newbies continues. We are always looking for new folks dedicated to community service to join the department, both those interested in firefighting/first response and those interested in less intense volunteering like administrative and maintenance—no prior fire department experience necessary!

Incident Responses						
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/Menace	Public Assistance/Other
8	9	6	8	82	4	4
					<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>142</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel		
Incident	Training	Maint./Admin	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary
583	884	338/452	27	9		5

\*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  
**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](mailto: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.

COVID-19 affected all of us in 2020. WCVFD saw a decrease in call volume and volunteer hours. Fundraisers were put on hold and volunteers dealt with the challenges of calls and training through social distancing and increased PPE. The biggest change for WCVFD was the retirement of our much beloved and respected Chief Nathan Falk. Chief Falk has been with the department 26 years with approximately 14 of those as Chief. He has handed over the reins to a new crew with the promise to stay on as a “yellow hat”. He is a wealth of knowledge and experience, and the crew is thankful to have him. We expect 2021 to be a busy year. The addition of a utility vehicle has allowed us an almost 24/7 duty officer. We are in the process of planning a second fire station located on the corner of Patterson Road and Oak Lane. When completed, this will be another great asset to our community.

Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Others
16	5	11	47	148	1	11	15
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>254</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
590	880	80	57	14		0	

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

# Yurok Fire Department

**Chief:** Rod Mendes

**Battalion Chief:** Blaine McKinnon

**Engine Captain:** Andrew Lamebear

**Engine Captain:** David Rubalcaba

**Mailing:** HC 67 (PO Box 196)  
23001 State Hwy 96

Hoopa, CA 95546

**Physical:** 1500 Tulley  
Creek Road

530-625-1900

[rmendes@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:rmendes@yuroktribe.nsn.us)

The Yurok Fire Department is a chartered stand-alone organization within the Yurok Tribal government and is solely operated and managed by the Yurok Tribe. The Yurok Fire Department is a national resource under a Cooperative Agreement with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and responds across the nation to provide assistance to local, state, and federal agencies when requested. The Department functions with one Type-3 and two Type-6 engines, plus various overhead. The Department not only responds to fires but provides assistance when requested for other all-risk response incidents. The Fire Department was officially established in 2005 and chartered in 2020.



Incident Responses							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Public Assistance	Other
15	5	0	0	0	0	0	40
						<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>60</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Full Time	Temporary	Seasonal	
0	0	0	0	11	0	0	

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

# Yurok 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](mailto: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 and the contents of this page have not been confirmed by representatives of the Yurok Tribe or YTVFC.*

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

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

# County, State, and Federal Fire Services in Humboldt County

## Arcata/Eureka Airport Fire Hall

*(Humboldt County Aviation Division)*

**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.

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

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).

Incident Responses		
Vegetation Fire:	Medical/Public Assistance:	Emergency Standby:
0	3	0
<b>Personnel:</b>	4	<b>Total Responses:</b> 3

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

# 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.

<b>Incident Responses (within Humboldt County)</b>							
Vegetation Fires	Structure Fires	Other Fires	Vehicle Accidents	Medical	Hazmat/ Menace	Other Services	
97	7	124	100	358	18	506	
<b>Cal Fire Humboldt/Del Norte Unit Personnel</b>				<b>Total Responses</b>		<b>1,210</b>	
Conservation Camps/Fire Center	Fire Stations	Emergency Command Center	Air Program	Resource Management	Law Enforcement	Admin Staff	Seasonal Positions
31	33	10	9	14	2	16	168

\*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](http://www.fs.usda.gov/srnf)  
[www.nps.gov/redw](http://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
<b>SRF/ RWNP</b>	86	44	419	56
		<b>Total Responses</b>		<b>SRF/ RWNP 605</b>
Six Rivers NF and Redwood NP Fire Personnel (Approximate)				
Full Time		Temporary		Seasonal
228		85		-

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

# Humboldt County Emergency Medical Services, Technical Rescue, and Disaster Response Groups

## Eel River Valley Technical Rescue Team

**Team Commander:** Scott Katzdorn

**Squad Leaders:**

Hollie Charez – Carlotta  
Robert Anderson – Ferndale  
Phil Mullins – Fortuna  
John Broadstock – Scotia

Jennifer Renner – 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.

Incident Responses			
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
<b>Total Responses</b>			<b>15</b>
Volunteer Hours		Personnel	
Incidents	Training	Volunteer	Auxiliary
120	800	30	0

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

# 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](mailto: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
				<b>Total Responses</b>	<b>28</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel	
Incidents	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary
700	720	150	200	10	12

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

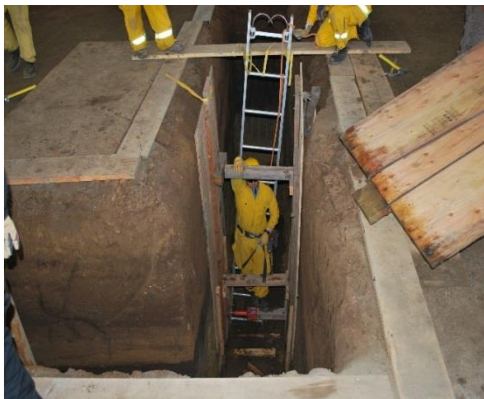
# Humboldt Urban Search and Rescue

**Humboldt Bay Fire:** 707-441-4000

**Contact:** Eureka Public Safety Dispatch  
Humboldt Bay Fire Captain Nathan Baxley

**Dispatch:** 707-441-4044

[nbaxley@hbfire.org](mailto: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 planning meeting and quarterly hands on drills.

# Hazardous Materials Response Team

**Fire Captain, Humboldt Bay Fire:**  
Chris Mitchell

707-441-4000

[cmitchell@hbfire.org](mailto: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 assist Humboldt County Environmental Health with updates to the Humboldt County Hazmat Response Plan.

**Challenges and 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](http://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 <sup>st</sup> Responder Training Programs	Advanced Life Support Agencies	Paramedic Programs
445	65	2	6	5	1

This page intentionally left blank.

---

**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

**Acknowledgements**

**Project Oversight**

Colette Metz  
Executive Officer, Humboldt LAFCo  
707-445-7508  
[colettem@humboldtlaftco.org](mailto:colettem@humboldtlaftco.org)

Cybelle Immitt  
Natural Resources Planning Manager,  
Humboldt County Public Works  
Public Works Director's Designee,  
Humboldt County Fire Safe Council  
[cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:cimmitt@co.humboldt.ca.us)

**Compilation**

Krystle Heaney  
Analyst/Clerk, Humboldt LAFCo  
John Miller  
Senior Planner, Humboldt County Planning and  
Building  
Member, Humboldt County Fire Safe Council

**Editing and Final Touches**

Julia Cavalli  
Senior Environmental Analyst,  
Humboldt County Public Works

**Chiefs' Association Annual Report Committee**

Dale Unea, Brian Anderson, Lon Windburn, Justin McDonald, Sean Robertson

**Special Acknowledgements and Funding Recognition**

All of the fire service representatives who took the time to provide information for this report. There would be no Fire Services Annual Report without your contributions. Thank you!

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

Funding for this report, provided in part by the Public Safety/Essential Services Sales Tax (Measure Z).

---