



Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association Annual Report 2016



Thank you
Humboldt County.
Your Measure Z
funds at work



Cover Page Story

Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association Measure Z Improvements

In 2016, The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association received a second year of funding from Measure Z and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to support rural fire protection. Over 1.8 million dollars were allocated to purchase equipment, pay dispatch fees, and continue the multiyear sustainable fire services planning effort. These purchases and activities have directly affected and benefitted the volunteer and rural fire agencies to increase the safety and capability of fire and rescue services within the County.

A portion of this funding was used to purchase equipment to bring the volunteer and rural departments and agencies up to nationally recognized minimum level safety equipment and emergency response apparatus standards. Updated equipment makes responders better prepared and decreases the risk of injury while increasing the ability to protect members of the general public. In 2016, funding was used to purchase adequate and compliant fire hose, additional personal protective equipment (PPE), as well as reliable and safe fire response apparatuses (see the cover page photographs for the new fire engines purchased with the Measure Z funding in 2016). Funds were also used to continue covering a portion of fire department dispatch fees. In addition, planning efforts, facilitated by County of Humboldt and Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) staff, have also continued. This work continues to focus on making changes that will support the continued delivery and improvement of fire and rescue services to communities in need. Support was provided to reconvene the Avenue of the Giants Fire Cooperative as a forum to strategize about how to address the service delivery challenges faced by local fire departments along the Avenue of the Giants and greater area. Technical support was also provided to the Garberville, Kneeland, and Rio Dell Fire Protection Districts. Coalitions among service providers have been strengthened, service needs have been clarified, and options are under evaluation; all with the intention of improving and sustaining essential emergency services in Humboldt County.

“ The Department's new Measure Z funded 4 wheel drive fire engine will allow us to access all roads in our district as well as outlying areas. This engine also has a larger pump, which will improve our structure fire suppression capabilities. ”

James Simmons
Fire Chief
Orick Volunteer Fire Department

“ Everyone is very excited and looking forward to receiving an apparatus that has the ability to be a first out engine to respond equipped for medical, traffic accidents, and fire all in one, especially with such a small number of volunteers. The new truck will provide the ability to access areas of the District that can be extremely difficult to reach and provide a bit of reassurance that a timely response regardless of terrain and location will be possible. While the trucks currently operated by Bridgeville Fire are well maintained and able to perform their jobs, they are aging and Bridgeville is a rough remote area. A new apparatus is a very much welcomed edition to the District and Community.

Bridgeville Vol. Fire Dept is planning to hold a "Community Meet the New Fire Truck Day" after its arrival and put in service with a simple coffee and cookies safety event at the fire hall. As details come together, I will be sure all those involved with making this happen are contacted and invited.

Lauri Barnwell
Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department

“ Since we haven't received the new engine, yet, I can only tell you how Measure 'Z' funds have benefited us in other ways.

The new gear and equipment that the Telegraph Ridge Fire Company has received, due to Measure 'Z' funds, has energized our volunteer firefighters. More of our members are showing up at meetings, trainings, and incidents. They are more enthusiastic and involved in the Fire Company. This is directly related to being able to wear and use new modern gear and equipment, instead of old worn hand me downs. Four of our young firefighters just completed a 40 hour class, offered by the local BLM fire office, on wild land firefighting. They were only allowed to participate because they had all the required necessary Personal Protective Equipment that was purchased for us with funds from Measure 'Z.'

Peter Lawsky
Fire Chief
Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District

“ As a direct result of Measure “Z”, Kneeland Volunteer Fire Department has a lot to be thankful for.

Celebrating 30 years providing Fire and First Responder response for our rural, 110 square mile response area for Structure, and Vegetation Fires, EMS, Rescues and Vehicle Accidents reliable apparatus has always been a financial challenge. As provided by Measure “Z” County Fire 2016 -17 budget in February of 2017 Kneeland Fire received a 2003 E-One Structure Fire Engine 8913, a great addition to our department which replaces our 1974 engine.

The Measure “Z” 2003 engine 8913 cost over \$100,000; a price tag, at this time, that is well out of reach for our department. This engine features an engine and transmission perfect for mountainous roads. There is seating for six fire fighters. Many of our volunteers have previously driven their private vehicles to the incident; this new engine will provide a safer and more efficient response. Equipment includes water gun on top of the engine, 750-gallon water tank and 40-gallon foam tank with a simplified computer pump operations. It also has great scene lighting and automatic snow chains.

Our firefighters are very excited to replace some of our older engines with newer and safer equipment. Receiving this new engine means a great deal for our community. The Kneeland community is experiencing growing pains, new residential buildings being built, population increases, and 911 call volume doubling over the last 10 years. This makes for the need for more volunteers, and safer, more reliable equipment. We must always remember the incident never differentiates from a paid department or a volunteer department. The risk is the same, the challenges are the same. The only difference is the quality and quantity of equipment and apparatus. Thanks to Measure “Z” we are beginning to improve that gap.

”

Rick Hardin
Fire Chief
Kneeland Fire Protection District

The following chart provides a breakdown for how Measure Z funding has been or is planned to be used during the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year.

Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association

2016-2017 Measure Z Expenditures

Measure Z funding	Use of Funding
<i>\$1,838,542.00</i>	<i>Beginning Allocation</i>
\$108,625.82	Fire hose to replace outdated and non-compliant fire hose
\$95,095.62	Structural PPE
\$26,457.84	Wildland PPE
\$52,980.00	Countywide planning for sustainable fire and rescue services (LAFCo staff and County staff from Planning and Building and Public Works)
\$25,000.00	Dispatch fees
\$30,000.00	Engineering and permitting fees for building sites
\$1,012,854.53	Nine (9) fire apparatus purchased - (Carlotta, Fruitland Ridge, Petrolia, Kneeland, Bridgeville, Telegraph Ridge, Redcrest, Orick, Westhaven)
\$360,000.00	Three (3) fire apparatus pending (Briceland, Orleans, Blue Lake)
\$127,528.19	Pending for the purchase for SCBA bottles and other equipment needs to be determined



In Memory

The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association 2016 Annual report is dedicated to the memory of nine local fire service members who recently passed. Each dedicated their commitment of time and service to their respective department and community faithfully over the course of many years.

Thank you for your service.

James F. Lollich passed away on December 1, 2015. James was a founding member of the Orleans Volunteer Fire Department, and served for many years as Fire Chief.

Jack Hill passed away on January 12, 2016. Jack served the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department for 25 years, and was a retired Assistant Fire Chief.

Will McWhorter passed away on February 26, 2016. Will was an exempt member of the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department, having served for 35 years between 1975 and 2010. Will was a member of Fortuna Fire Hook & Ladder Co. 3 where he was Treasurer and Captain.

Tim Smith passed away on September 26, 2016. Tim was a founding member of the Bridgeville Volunteer Fire Department, serving for six years. Tim served as Assistant Fire Chief, and assisted in the formation of the Bridgeville Fire Protection District in 2012. Tim became a member of the Fortuna Volunteer Fire Department in May, 2012. He was a charter member and instrumental in the formation of the Eel River Valley Technical Rescue Team, serving as Team Leader from 2012-2016, and was an instructor for the Eel River Valley Fire Academy. Tim served as Lieutenant of Fortuna Fire Co. 3, and Captain of Fortuna Fire Co. 5, and was Fortuna VFD Firefighter of the year in 2014 and 2015.

Emmitt William "Bill" Enos passed away on October 24, 2016. Bill was a retired member of the Eureka Fire Department, having served as a Firefighter and Engineer for 30 years between 1966 and 1996.

Kenneth Q. Cringle passed away on December 6, 2016. Ken was a retired member of the Eureka Fire Department, having served as a Firefighter, Engineer, and Captain for 25 years between 1956 and 1981.

Mike Bushnell passed away on December 23, 2016. Mike served the Scotia Volunteer Fire Department for 28 years, and was a retired Assistant Chief.

Gary W. Cahill passed away on January 10, 2017. Gary was a retired member of the Eureka Fire Department, having served as Firefighter and Engineer for 26 years between 1971 and 1997.

Gary G. Gilkinson passed away on February 3, 2017. Gary was the founding Fire Chief of the Orleans Volunteer Fire Department.

To: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

An overview of 2016 Humboldt County Fire Services:

2016 was a year of very interesting changes and improvements to Humboldt County fire departments. This past year, we have experienced increases in calls for service to a large majority of the fire departments in Humboldt County. Calls, ranging from fires to public service calls, to calls for medical assistance, have all increased. This shows that our communities, citizens, and visitors of this county are relying more on the fire service than ever before. Most of the fire services in Humboldt are Volunteer, and funded by property taxes, special assessments and fundraising. As the call volumes go up, the costs to the departments increase. We were fortunate to receive voter approved funds for public safety through Measure Z again this year. With the funds approved by the Board of Supervisors, we were able to upgrade first out fire engines for Volunteer agencies that were using apparatus that were at the end of their useful life, and often unsafe and unreliable. Funding for fire hose was provided, as well as purchase of structural and wildland personal protective equipment (PPE). Funds were also provided through Measure Z to assist with dispatch fees, and countywide planning assistance from the Local Agency Formation Commission and County Planning and Building and Public Works to address fire and rescue service sustainability. It is my goal and the goal of the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association to continue to request Measure Z funding to further improve our area fire departments, so that as our friends and family enjoy the rural areas of our county, they will receive assistance and safe, timely response from the departments spread around our county.

Additionally, these past years have brought exciting changes to the fire service from my perspective. Fire departments are training together and working together to improve the way we serve our communities and the county as a whole. This has not always been the case; in my 30 plus years of being a volunteer I have seen times when departments almost came to blows over district lines. Now we have mutual aid agreements, auto aid agreements and interdepartmental training. This is a testament to all the Firefighters within this county, as we understand that we are here to serve the county as well as our respective districts. We will be there to help our neighbors, and our neighbors will be there to help us if needed.

The Chiefs' Association would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for their continued support to the Firefighters of Humboldt County. Without this support we would not have the current level of fire department service provided today.

Sincerely,

Jeff Robison, President

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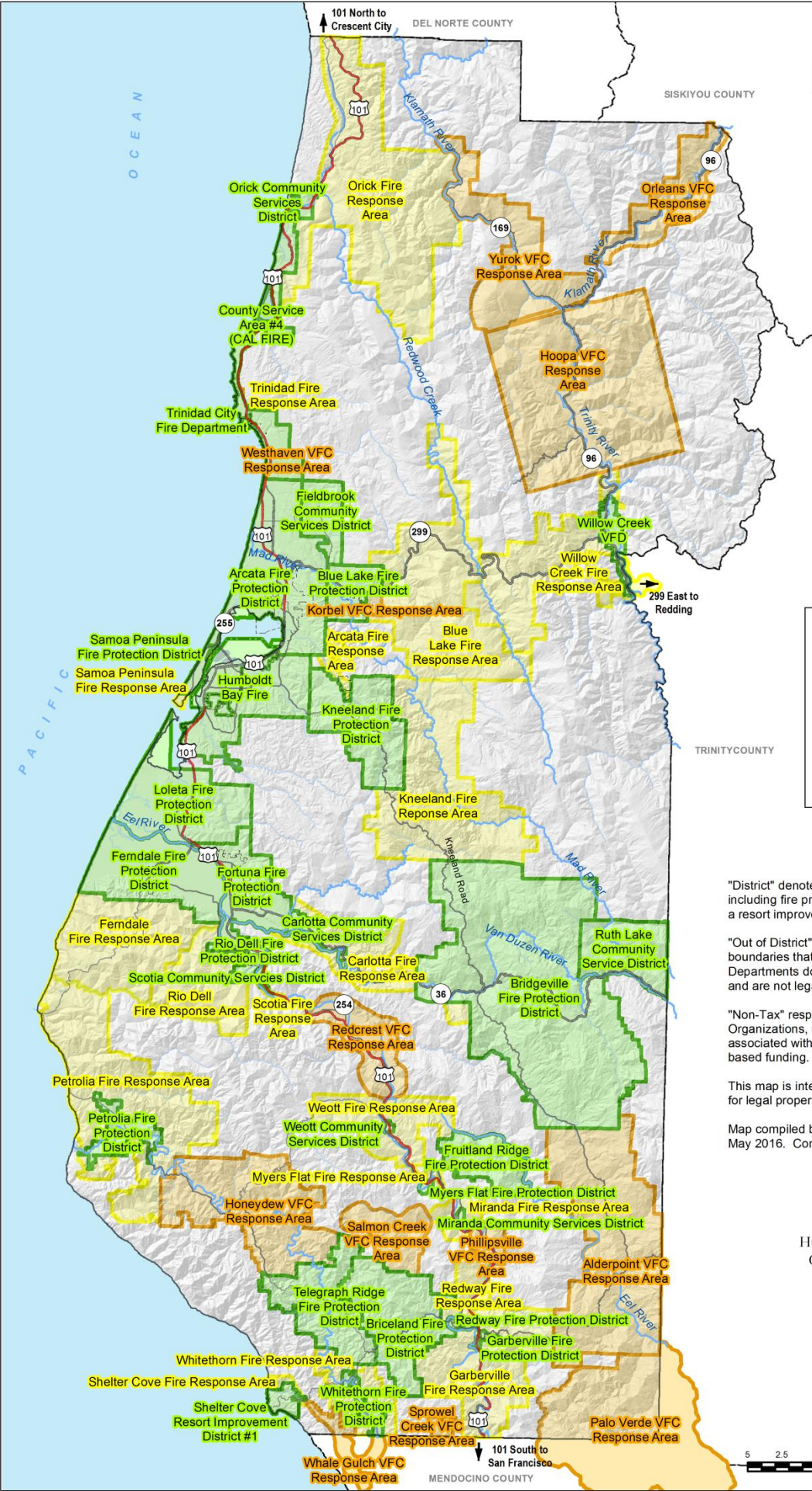
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Acronyms

ALS	Advanced Life Support
ARFF	Aircraft Rescue Firefighting
AFFF	Aqueous Film-Forming Foam
AED	Automated External Defibrillator
BLS	Basic Life Support
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs
CSD	Community Services District
CAFS	Compressed Air Foam System
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch
EMS	Emergency Medical Service
EMT	Emergency Medical Technician
EMT-I	Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate
FFP	Federal Fire Policy
FPD	Fire Protection District
GPM	Gallons per minute
LAFCo	Local Agency Formation Committee
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

Humboldt County

Local Fire Protection



Legend

Humboldt County Fire Departments

Local Fire Organization

- District
- Out of District
- Non-Tax

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

"Out of District" response areas are areas outside of district boundaries that fire departments currently respond to. Fire Departments do not receive funding for "Out of District" areas and are not legally obligated to respond.

"Non-Tax" 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.

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
 May 2016. Contact: jvondohlen@co.humboldt.ca.us



2016 Annual Report Introduction

This report documents fire and emergency response provided by the local, State and Federal fire service as well as details about emergency medical services, technical rescue and disaster response groups. A summary is provided of the role played in Humboldt County by the fire chiefs' associations followed by a page dedicated to each local service provider. Local service provider pages are organized by Humboldt County Supervisorial District.

The map on the previous page illustrates where and what type of local fire protection is provided throughout Humboldt County. The special districts that deliver fire services 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.

Department vs. Company

In this Report, with a few exceptions, fire service providers associated with a special district are labeled "Volunteer Fire Department", meaning they receive some tax or fee revenue gathered from within a mapped boundary. Those that do not receive tax revenue and are funded primarily through fundraisers and donations are labeled "Volunteer Fire Company".

There are still many areas outside the boundaries of an established district that receive fire protection from district resources responding outside of their jurisdiction. This type of service, which is often referred to as "goodwill service", is identified in the map legend as "Out of District" and is shown on the map in yellow. District fire departments provide service to these areas even though they are under no obligation to do so and receive no compensation for their service, other than donations. This practice can put a strain on already limited resources. Furthermore, property owners within the district may question why the services funded through their taxes are benefiting out of district residents, particularly if they pay a special tax or benefit assessment specifically for fire protection.

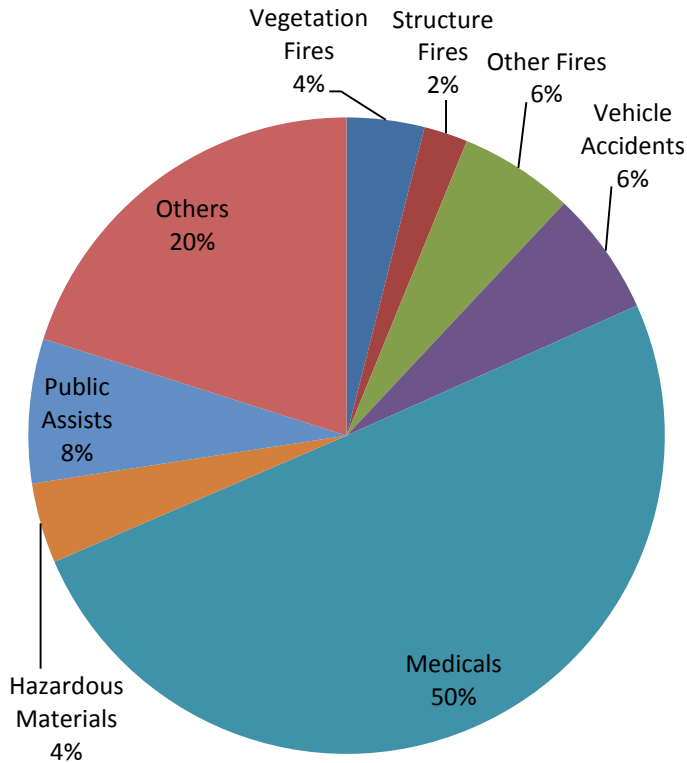
Many areas outside the boundaries of an established district receive fire protection from a volunteer fire company that is not affiliated with a district. These volunteer fire companies receive no tax revenue and for that reason are identified on the map legend as "Non-Tax" and are illustrated on the map in orange. The survival of these fire companies depends on revenue

generated from community donations, fundraisers, and grants. Some communities are more supportive of their local fire companies than others and support can fluctuate dramatically depending on local economic conditions.

The following pages provide graphic illustrations of types of responses provided during the 2016 calendar year. There are two pie charts—one for local agencies and one for State and Federal agencies—which illustrate total 2016 fire service responses with percentages for each recorded category. It is interesting to note that, for local agency fire service calls, 50 percent are medical emergency dispatches. 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 107,431 volunteer hours were reported in 2016. This is likely an underestimate of what is actually contributed by the over 700 volunteers who support the network of active local fire departments, fire companies and technical rescue groups in Humboldt County.

2016 Local Agency Incident Responses



Total Responses: 14,563

2016 Volunteer Hours for Humboldt County Fire and Technical Rescue Services:

Incidents: **35,633**

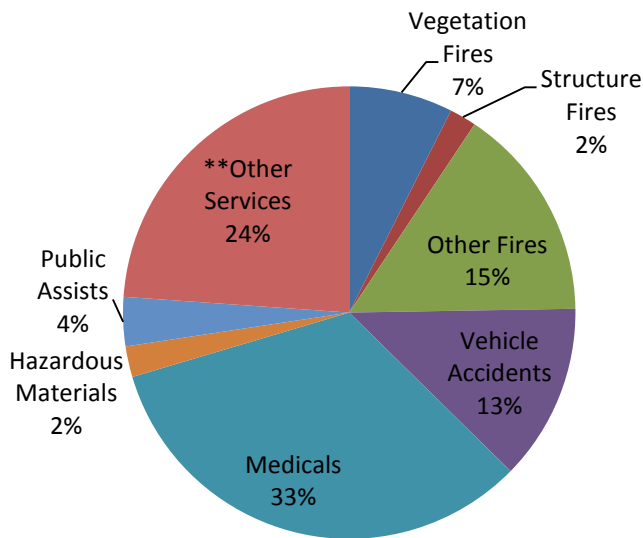
Training: **40,818**

Maintenance: **11,141**

Fundraising: **21,464**

Total Hours: 109,056

2016 State & Federal Agency



Total Responses: 2,139

**Other Services for State & Federal Responses include the following Incident types: Prescribed Fire; Search & Rescue; Law Enforcement; Emergency Standby; and Miscellaneous.