

**Virginia Bass**  
**Humboldt County**  
**Fourth District Supervisor**

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**Fire Departments:**

- Humboldt Bay Fire
- Samoa Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department

# Humboldt Bay Fire

**Chief:** Bill Gillespie  
**Dep. Fire Chief:** Bill Reynolds

533 C Street  
 Eureka, CA 95501

707-441-4000  
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[HBFire.org](http://HBFire.org)



Humboldt Bay Fire Joint Powers Authority provides service to approximately 56,000 residents within the City of Eureka and the Greater Eureka Area, as well as the Arcata Fire District (City of Arcata and McKinleyville). We are an all-risk fire department that responds to a wide variety of emergencies.

Humboldt Bay Fire (HBF) continues to expand its level of medical care from BLS to ALS at three of our five stations. 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 that occurs within our jurisdiction. Apparatus used include six Type 1 fire engines, two Type 3 fire engines, two ladder trucks, one medium duty rescue squad, 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.

One notable achievement was to return Fire Station 4 to full time staffing. During the previous year, we experienced the station “browned out” (unstaffed) for a large portion of the year. Through cooperative efforts in the budgeting process, HBF was able to work within the existing budget to commit to staffing the station 24/7 with a minimum of a two person squad. On days where full staffing was present, an engine was staffed. The goal over the next year is to return to full time engine staffing at the station. HBF has also been rebuilding our volunteer firefighter program. Currently HBF has eight volunteer personnel with four of those being firefighters while the other four are fire support volunteers charged with directing traffic, crowd control and other support activities.

### Challenges & Needs:

Much like the previous year, funding remains a constant challenge. With the rising cost of operations and other expenses Humboldt Bay Fire strives to maintain our high level of service with little influx of new or additional funding. We continue to pursue grant funding where we can to help address equipment needs, but there are no guarantees with grants. We also struggle with recruitment and retention of personnel (both career and volunteer) due to a wide variety of reasons. Recruitment for volunteers is ongoing. While the squad is able to respond to all types of emergencies, it lacks a pump, water, and ladders and thereby cannot effectively attack a fire. Restoring a fully staffed engine on a regular basis will bring back full effective emergency response to the station.

Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	Struct. Fires	Other Fires	Veh. Acc.	Medicals	Haz/Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
50	58	119	153	3,503	327	524	1,596
<b>Total Responses</b>						<b>6,330</b>	
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer	Auxiliary	Career	
118	166	N/A	N/A	8	0	56	

## Samoa Peninsula Volunteer Fire Department

**Chief:** Dale Unea  
**Captain:** Troy Smith

1982 Gass St.  
 Fairhaven, CA 95564

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The Samoa Volunteer Fire Department is an all-volunteer department that provides fire and emergency medical services to the Samoa Peninsula Fire Protection District (SPFPD). The SPFPD provides services to the communities of Samoa, Fairhaven, and Finntown, as well as a K-8 grade school, the Samoa Cookhouse restaurant, DG Fairhaven Power, an airport, a Coast Guard base, a County RV campground, a light industrial business park, and over six miles of recreational beach.

**Challenges & Needs:**

With industry on the peninsula slowly reviving, the age of our fire equipment becomes more apparent. This year Measure Z provided us with fourteen new sets of turnouts for our volunteers.

Our apparatus includes a 8614- 2004 Pierce Type 1, a 8623- 1981 Ford C8000 Type 2, a 8632- 1989 International Type 3, a 8646- 2002 Ford f350, and a 8671- 1996 Toyota 4x4.

Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	Struct. Fires	Other Fires	Veh. Acc.	Medicals	Haz/Menace	Public Assists	Other Services
11	4	15	1	42	-	-	15
<b>Total Responses</b>							<b>88</b>
Volunteer Hours				Personnel			
Incident	Training	Maintenance	Fundraising	Volunteer		Auxiliary	
213	3245	1,000+	2260	19		3	