

This is Battalion Chief Chris Emmons with Humboldt Bay Fire. Humboldt Bay Fire is an “all risk” fire agency. What does “all risk” mean? It means that we are not a traditional fire department. We are an agency that responds to all types of emergency and non-emergency incidents in the City of Eureka and the Greater Humboldt Bay area. Some of the incidents we respond to on a daily basis may include fires, explosions, medical calls for service, rescues such as entrapment in machinery, water rescues, extrication from vehicle collisions, hazardous materials spills, or hazardous conditions such as power lines down, natural gas leaks, and fluid leaking from vehicles, just to name a few.

Other types of incidents that your Humboldt Bay Firefighters respond to are calls referred to as non-emergency service calls such as assisting disabled persons when they have fallen and are unable to get up, fire alarms sounding, smoke complaints, carbon monoxide detector activations, significant leaks in residential water systems, and investigations of unidentified odors.

What does Humboldt Bay Fire do when it's not responding to calls for service? A typical day includes apparatus and station maintenance, training of personnel for incidents, inspections of businesses and apartments, public education, administrative duties such as report writing, collateral duty projects that many firefighters have such as management of specialized programs such as hydrant testing, hose testing, radio programming, repair of equipment, sewing of protective clothing and many more. The personnel of Humboldt Bay Fire willingly take on additional projects to keep the cost of service down for the citizens we serve. Through in-house programs and utilizing local businesses to maintain the vital needs of the organization we are able to keep equipment in service longer and save on expenses that would otherwise be leaving our community.

Additionally, Humboldt Bay Fire works closely with our partners at the City and County levels to provide services that may not seem like "fire department related" duties. For instance, the Fire Prevention Bureau works directly with the Building Department to review and approve

construction plans to aid in development of projects in our area. When the Fire Prevention Bureau is not conducting plan reviews, personnel are involved in safety inspections of businesses, ensuring compliance of building and fire codes, conducting fire extinguisher training for businesses, and aiding in development of safety plans for various organizations. Fire personnel also investigate all fires to determine causes which may lead to new designs of materials to prevent fires and assist law enforcement in prosecution of criminal fires.

Humboldt Bay Fire is committed to Community Service through Leadership, Vision, and Integrity. Our goal is to provide the best possible service with core values that promote Professionalism, Respect, Image, Discipline, and Efficiency to our community.

For more information about Humboldt Bay Fire, please call us at area code (707) 441-4000. This is Battalion Chief Chris Emmons with you Community Comment.