



Eureka Fire Department 2010 4th Quarter Report

Chief's Report

Interim Chief Bill Gillespie

The fourth quarter has been a time of considerable change for Eureka Fire Department, and for the City of Eureka as a whole. Within the fire department, we began this fiscal year with reductions, including the freezing of three firefighter positions, and the early retirement of two very knowledgeable and key members of this organization.

We are by no means alone in the arena of fiscal challenge. Through the generous support of the voters in our community, Measure O was successfully passed in the City of Eureka. This will help the City significantly, but the economy of the State of California and our local area will still place considerable demands on local government. Through the actions of our City Council, Eureka Fire Department is beginning the process of filling some of our vacant positions. The process will take time, as in addition to the selection process for candidates, we utilize an extensive background check, medical screening exam, and a psychological exam to ensure that we hire quality personnel. We owe this to the citizens of the greater Eureka Community. Over the next few months, it is our goal that you will see some new faces at the fire department.

The retirement of a Fire Chief presents many challenges that fall outside of selecting a replacement. Quite often it is the Chief of the organization that possess the most in depth institutional knowledge, not only for the department, but also a great deal of institutional knowledge about the City and the Community. Chief Smith was such an example. He grew up in the community, knew the community and its people, and knew the fire department and the local fire service. He

recognized our community's unique character and the fire challenges that it presents. Much has been said of Chief Smith and his accomplishments in recent months. One of the attributes that I have admired through the years is his desire and drive to ensure that those in the organization be better prepared to step into their role than he felt that he was. Chief Smith was a champion for challenging personnel to learn, grow, and most of all to provide the best level of service to the community that we serve.

I know I speak for the group when I say that the Eureka Fire Department shares Chief Smith's desire to provide the best service to the community that we can with the personnel, skills, and equipment that we possess. I speak honestly, humbly, and from the heart when I say that I am sure we will continue to learn and grow along the way; I know I have and continue to do so. We are committed to our city and our community, and strive to continue the ongoing relationship with the people that make up Eureka.

Thank you to the members of our community for your ongoing support.

Respectfully, Bill Gillespie

The Fourth Quarter remained busy at the fire department, with activities ranging from the Fire Department Open House in October, the retirements of Chief Smith and Captain II Marriott, to maintenance, repairs, and training.



The Fire Department Open House, though often considered a Prevention event, was well attended by all from the fire department and from the public. Numerous demonstrations, tours, vendor displays, and educational opportunities took place. The weather cooperated, and attendance by the public was good. The event found Chief Smith operating the 1906 Antique Steamer under the guidance of Captain II Hulbert. It was a unique opportunity, as Chief Smith had never operated the steamer during his career, and was able to do so prior to his retirement in November.

The Communications Committee, comprised of representatives from Dispatch, EFD, and HFD#1, worked during the quarter discussing a solution of how to shorten the pre-alert used by dispatch. With the current silent station process being used at night, the pre-alert was not heard by the stations, and a delay of approximately 20 seconds per call occurred as dispatch followed procedure. It was decided that the pre-alert used would be the respective station radio tone for the station that was receiving the call. The station tone will open the radio immediately, with brief call type and address information given, followed by the standard station tone and information. This new procedure will go into effect after the first of the year, and has the potential to shorten response times by 10-15 seconds. Also changing through the Communications Committee is the daily radio check of all apparatus. In early 2011, Dispatch will discontinue the practice of radio checks via roll call of each apparatus. Apparatus radios will be checked by dispatch once per week, with station checks and administrative message daily.

Annual testing of hydrants has been ongoing during the quarter, having begun in October. Also occurring in October and November was the annual testing of our fleet of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). Due to increased fire activity during the quarter, Captain Weaver noted an increased number of SCBA's that went out of service in November. Units were repaired in house and returned to service. Various repair issues, including primarily fill valves, were replaced on the SCBA breathing air compressor at HQ.

Numerous facility repair issues occurred during the fourth quarter. The most critical occurred at Station 3 in late December, where a water pipe from the hot water heater failed within the slab foundation, placing the station without hot water for a period of time. With the assistance of COE Public Works, emergency repairs were made. The station was re-plumbed, placing hot water delivery piping into the attic. Some sheetrock at the station still requires repair following the plumbing. Also occurring during the quarter was the failure of Station 3's emergency generator, which would not start. An electric deficiency was identified and repaired. Issues with the large garage doors at all three stations indicate replacement will be necessary in the not too distant future. It was also noted as the rainy season began, that there were numerous leaks in the Headquarters roof, primarily over the apparatus floor. Some leaks resulted in failing ceiling tiles that fell to the floor. Sheetrock in the HQ shop also remains damaged and gone in places following significant leaks in the roof earlier in the year. The Council approved monies earmarked for the HQ roof repair in late December following the passage of Measure O.



The Headquarters 2010 earthquake damage estimate was received at an estimated \$172,000. An estimate to replace the Headquarters building in its current configuration was also received at a cost estimate of \$5.93 million dollars. This number is far below the amount as listed in the CIP list due to differences in cost per square foot, and in the total square footage used for the calculations. The CIP contains estimates for the increased area needed to store apparatus, and the adequately house the many additional services that the department currently provides.

During the quarter, our fleet of Thermal Imaging Cameras (TIC's) were returned one at a time to the manufacturer for much needed service. The service included recalibration and refurbishment of the units, with seals and worn or damaged parts being replaced. Cost for the repairs of each unit ran approximately \$800-900, but were far cheaper than the \$8,000-9,000 per unit for replacement. FF Butler has been working to inventory the extensive collection of tools and equipment used by EFD. This process will be ongoing and time consuming, but will provide accountability for tool locations and tracking condition and repairs. Calibration of the department's air monitoring equipment and radiological equipment has been ongoing through the quarter. Aging smoke ejector fans have been identified as desirable equipment items to be replaced should midyear or late year monies be available. Also identified were wildland hosepacks and wildland helmets that needed replacement.

In November, Captain II's Hulbert and Emmons attended the Firehouse Conference for ongoing and update training on the Firehouse Incident Reporting software used by EFD. Emmons is the primary Firehouse Manager/Coordinator, having taken over for Captain II Marriott in September. Emmons and Hulbert continued to work together during the quarter to simplify and improve the way EFD utilizes the program. Work is ongoing.

The department is preparing for a federally mandated switch to narrow band radio frequencies. Communication frequency licenses have not yet returned from the FCC. Upon receipt of these required licenses, EFD and HFD will work together for a coordinated reprogramming. In November both Arcata Fire and Cal-Fire made the transition to narrow band frequencies. The Comtec silent station project was completed during the quarter, with Station 3 being the last location to receive new alerting hardware and speakers. This places all three fire stations on automatic equipment that shift to silent mode in the evening, and returns the station to normal in the morning or at any call for that station.

During the Fourth Quarter, EFD CPR instructors conducted 14 CPR classes that taught 105 citizens the life saving training. New CPR training manikins were ordered during the quarter.



Eureka Police and Fire Dispatch Center is now certified by North Coast Emergency Medical Services as an Early Medical Dispatching (EMD) provider. Though Dispatch had been using EMD procedures for a number of years, changes to the provider requirements necessitated alterations to the Quality Control process, and other minor changes.

Since the beginning of the fiscal year, all EMT renewals at EFD have had an increased fee of \$115 per EMT as mandated by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority. Also mandated has been updated Livescan finger printing, with additional fees. After this initial fee increase, renewals will cost approximately \$75 per EMT every two years. This amount will need to be included every other year in the annual budget request documents so as to maintain certifications of our employees.



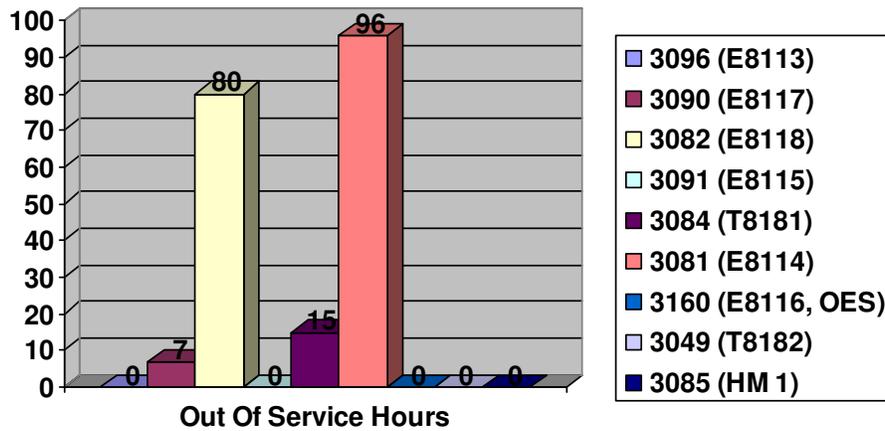
Hilfiker Training site work continues. Regular maintenance mowing continued during the quarter. Captain II Hulbert continued to work on an electrical plan to bring internal and exterior lighting to the drill tower. Both Whitchurch Engineering and the local Electrical Trades Union have been assisting. PG&E donated \$5,000 during the quarter which will be put toward the electrical improvement project. Rescue Systems 2 level site accreditation continues to be an ongoing project. This process is being assisted by grant monies from the Department of Homeland Security through the County Office of Emergency Services. Level 2 site accreditation allows level 2 rescue classes to be taught at the training site. Currently there are a limited number of RS2 accredited sites in California, and local personnel must travel at great cost to attend trainings out of the area.

As mentioned prior, the quarter saw the retirement of both Chief Smith and Captain II Marriott. The appointment of an Interim Fire Chief was made by City Manager Tyson. With one Duty Chief gone, duty coverage began with the two remaining Duty Chiefs and the Captain II's filling in every third weekend. Personnel were shifted to help cover the vacancies, and monies were allocated to help with coverage and overtime. With the passage of Measure O by the voters in November, the City Council approved the hiring of three firefighters to fill three previously frozen positions extending back to the 2009/2010 fiscal year, and fill the vacant Captain II position. Hiring processes will be required for Captain II, Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter to address the positions vacated as personnel promote. This process will extend to the end of the 2010/2011 fiscal year, and possibly beyond July 1.

APPARATUS STATISTICS

The following charts show information relative to our apparatus.

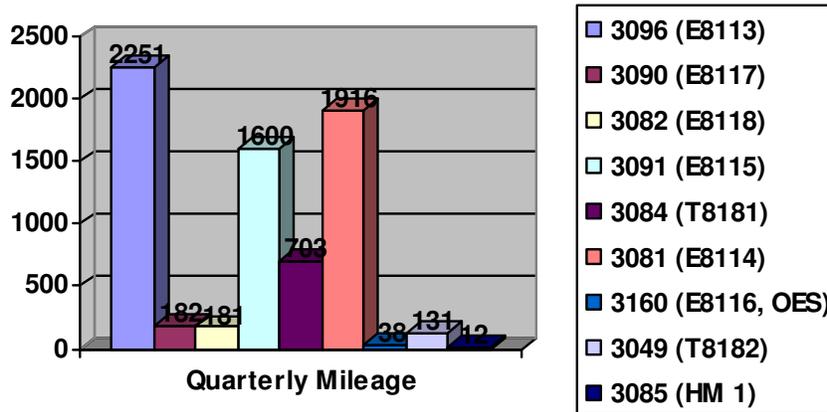
During the quarter, Captain Bakke reported on apparatus mileage and out of service hours. Engines 8114 and 8118 had the highest number of out of service hours during the quarter, and aside from Truck 8182 (3049) are the oldest engines in the fleet. Engine 8113 travelled the highest number of miles for the quarter at 2,251. Engine 8114 travelled the second highest number of miles during the quarter with 1,916. E8114 (3081) is currently the oldest apparatus in continued front line service, having been purchased new in 1991.



3096	0	3090	7	3049	0
3081	96	3091	0	3084	15
3082	80	3160	0	3085	0

3096	2251	3090	182	3049	131
3081	1916	3091	1600	3084	703
3082	181	3160	38	3085	12

Quarterly apparatus mileage is included in the chart below for comparison of miles driven versus hours out of service.



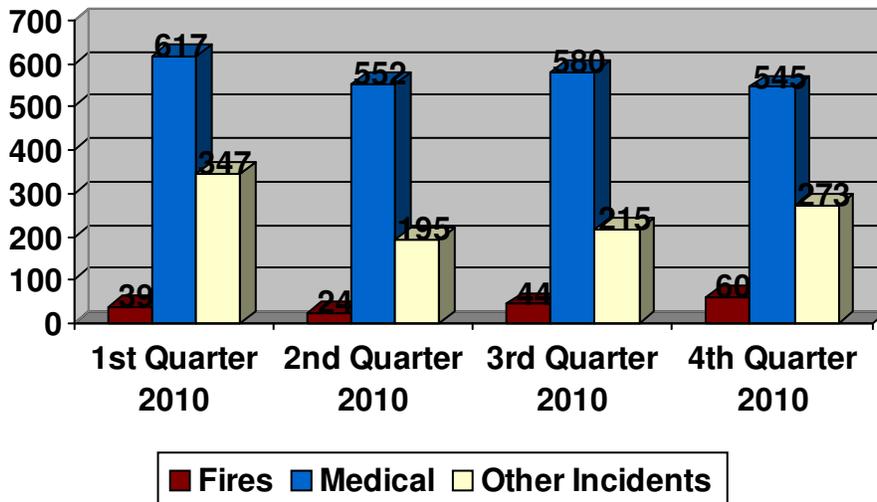
INCIDENT ACTIVITY

During the 4th quarter, EFD responded to a total of 878 calls for service. Fire calls represented 60 calls, 24 of which were listed as structures. Overall estimated dollar loss from structural fires was \$631,825 for the quarter.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Incidents, including minor and major medical aids, traffic collisions, extrications and rescues, and lift assist calls accounted for 545 incidents.

All other calls for service accounted for 273 responses.

2010 Quarterly Incident Statistics



This quarter started off quickly on October 9th with our annual Fire Department Open House. This year's event featured fire safety and education presented by department staff and several guest vendors. One of our guest vendors, Paul Nicholson Insurance, has been nominated for a national award from "9-1-1 for Kids" for his phone simulator which he uses to teach kids to call 911 in an emergency.



Captain II Laidlaw and Fire Inspector Walsler focused enforcement and education efforts on the Serenity Inn. In a series of repeated inspections coordinated with building management, they addressed issues including smoke alarms, wiring, cooking appliances, smoking, housekeeping, number of occupants in rooms, etc.

I have been involved in a State Fire Marshals Office prevention training course curriculum development committee in Sacramento. The committee has been meeting monthly since September. The class is a new "Fire Inspections for the Company Officer".

We closed out the quarter preparing for the adoption of the 2010 California Building and Fire Codes. In collaboration with the Humboldt County Fire Prevention Officers, Fire Code amendments were adopted with the goal of common standards for several local agencies. The adoption ordinance and resolution was prepared for introduction and adoption in January.

The retirement of Chief Smith will bring the bureau new challenges. The impact of the division of administrative responsibilities between us is still unclear. Workload within the bureau will most likely increase and we may be asking Operations for help.

Enforcement / Abatement Issues

We have worked with the Building Department, City Attorney's Office, PD, and other departments on the City's multi-property enforcement case. This involved several warrant service inspections and follow ups as well as attending various meetings and conferences.

Property / Development Issues

Several significant projects are in progress or were completed this quarter, including:

- 109 4th St, Vets Center; Residential and services center tenant improvement
- 119 T St. Humboldt Moving and Storage; new building including installation of high piled storage sprinkler system
- Eureka Inn; ongoing improvements and upgrading of alarm system
- College of the Redwoods; new project consultations
- St Joseph's Hospital; new construction continues including completion of the new door from the '54 stairwell onto the '97 roof

Significant project proposals reviewed this quarter include:

- Schneider Dock development proposal
- Open Door Clinic; Tydd Street proposal
- Shamus T-Bones restaurant on Truesedale behind the Bayshore Inn

Fire Investigations

There were eight investigation team level cases initiated this quarter. Two were found to be incendiary, three accidental, and three where the cause was undetermined.

From a perspective of potential loss,s the most significant fire of the quarter was the December 26th fire at the Yen Ching restaurant. The fire was confined to the first floor of the restaurant and the cause was an overheated CD player. Had the fire not been controlled early their was real potential for involvement of multiple significant buildings in the block.

A second significant fire was the Fountain Bleu apartment fire on November 27th. This fire significantly damaged two of the four units in the building. The cause of the fire was a candle that was left burning.

Inspection Activities

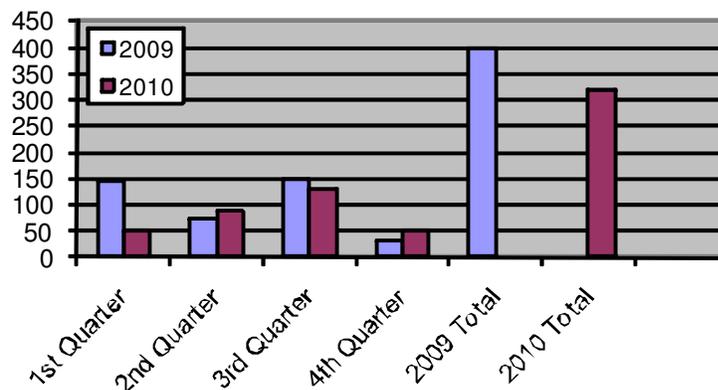
Fire Inspector Activities

Type of Inspection	<i>This Quarter</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
<i>Type of Inspection</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>#</i>
I-4	0	0
R-2	95	390
R-3	5	15
R-3.1	0	12
R-4	7	14
E-3	0	1
Weed/Trash Abatement	50	321
FPB Mtgs. /Classes	6	20
Totals:	163	773

Inspector Walser reports that with retirements and office restructuring, the local State Licensing Bureau office is closing with our area now under the jurisdiction of the Santa Rosa office. We will be losing our great personal contact with the office and we anticipate reduced facility oversight by the Licensing board.

Weed abatement:

Program activity: 50 cases this quarter totaling 321 over the year.



With a recent agreement with the Building Department, responsibility for the Weed and Rubbish abatement program has been split between Fire and Building. Fire will be handling cases that are primarily weed violations and cases that are primarily rubbish/debris issues will be referred to Building or Community Development..

Fire Suppression Division Inspection Activities

	<i>Reporting Quarter</i>	<i>Year To Date</i>
Blocks	91	357
Total Businesses	233	1009
Commercial Inspections	192	595
Commercial Re-Inspections	67	115
FPB Follow Up Completed	0	6
R-2 Occupancies, Engines	1	7
• R-1 Units & Time	*	*
Block Plans Updated	5	13
Target Hazards Updated	0	2

Cost Recovery and Revenue

	<i>Reporting Quarter</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
R-1 Inspection Fees Billed		
Plans	35 Reviews/62.75 Billable hours. (\$6,183.50)	(115) \$16,894.00
Permits (Fireworks)	N/A	.\$1,725.00
Total	\$6,183.50	\$18,619.00

Public Education and Events

Sixty hours of public education activities were conducted this quarter. Public events attended included two days at K-Mart and a day each at Sears and AAA. At these events our table display is set up and we provide information about topics such as home fire escape planning, smoke alarms and answer questions.

Fire extinguisher training was provided to two local businesses.

The prevention bureau presented our fire companies with two company schools this quarter. The first presented a change in computer record keeping and the second focused on holiday issues such as Christmas Tree's and exiting.

Other Issues

Like most other department and City divisions and departments, the Prevention Bureau is challenged by numerous priority tasks with limited resources to address them. An exciting and grant deadline driven project is research into a computer tablet based field inspection form system.

We continue our efforts to develop other priority projects including Public Education, Weed and Rubbish enforcement, Alarm Permitting and Bill procedures, etc.

Next quarters goal will be delivery of improved public education services and revised code enforcement procedures.

Respectfully, Rusty Goodlive