



Eureka Fire Department 2011 2nd Quarter Report

Chief's Report

Interim Chief Bill Gillespie

The Second Quarter proved to be both a busy and challenging time period for the Eureka Fire Department, and included budget preparation, personnel changes, extensive promotional testing, recruit training, budget finalization and presentation, labor negotiations with two labor groups and the City, and strategic visioning. Added to this were the day-to-day challenges and requirements of a modern fire department operation and service delivery to our community.

The quarter began with our recruit firefighter academy in which four new firefighters were trained. The academy runs for six weeks and imparts and teaches candidates the "Eureka" way of firefighting. I say the "Eureka" way, though in reality the material taught is a blend

Recruit Firefighters:



Nick Acord



Brett Christensen



Justin Conner



David Terry

of the EFD/HFD joint operations way. As you know, Eureka Fire and Humboldt Fire District #1 share a joint training officer through contractual agreement and share proportionate financial costs to support the position. Both agencies had previously worked to be consistent in training and operations on the fire ground, but this has really evolved through the efforts of Captain II Chris Jelinek with support from both departments. Personnel from the two departments train together consistently, and both organizations have influenced training and emergency operations to make our delivery to the public seamless. The previously mentioned recruit academy also experiences this joint training philosophy, as lesson material and presentation in most areas is identical during the respective department academies. During the last academy for each department, part

of the instructors actually came from the other department. We have not yet experienced a joint academy only because the two departments have hired at different times based on need. Our four recruit firefighters successfully passed their academy, and went on shift in early May.

Budget preparation for fiscal 2011-12 began in earnest during April as departments across the City worked to prepare operating budgets to meet their service delivery needs to our community. EFD personnel worked to maintain the concept of a

EFD/HFD Joint Training Officer Chris Jelinek sets up a drill simulating a traffic collision, with fire, involving hazardous materials

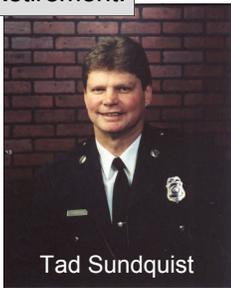


rollover or previous year budget where possible, but also worked to identify and describe areas where budget increases were necessary, such as in emergency medical supply purchasing and contractual service agreement increases. Service enhancements for new programs and projects were also developed, but kept to a minimum and only used where it was felt they were necessary. Some may counter the goal of a mostly rollover budget in light of the voter supported Measure O success. It is important to remember that Measure O fund generation relies on sales tax revenue, which relies on the community spending money within Eureka. Success of Measure O as a funding source is driven by the economy. While Measure O has provided tremendous breathing room, it is a short term solution, as it expires five years after inception. Submission of the budget to the Finance Department, including the departmental budget goals and objectives for each separate division of the fire department budget followed. Budget presentation to the City Council, including a chance to answer direct questions occurred near the end of the quarter. This year's budget process found a number of

Chief's Report

people within the department learning, preparing, and presenting different or increased portions of the budget, including myself, due to changes in Administrative staff at the fire department.

Retirement:



Tad Sundquist

As mentioned at the opening of this report, the quarter saw the fire department experience and undergo numerous personnel changes. As Fire Captain promotional candidates prepared to test for two positions, a third position was added with the retirement of Fire Captain Tad Sundquist in early June after 32 years of service to the City of Eureka. We congratulate him on his healthy retirement and wish him the best in his future pursuits. The Fire Captain test process involved a written exam, emergency incident management scenario, oral interview with a fire service professional panel, employee counseling roll play exercise, and oral presentation. Five candidates participated in testing for the position of Fire Captain, and I am proud to say that all

five successfully passed the process. The five then participated in a Chief's interview for final selection. From this pool, Jonathon Chambers, Mitchell Mills, and Patrick Beyer were selected for promotion to the position of Fire Captain effective July 1, 2011. Engineer testing followed the Captain selection. The Engineer test process included a written exam, oral interview, verbal city geography test, and hands-on manipulative testing components with departmental fire apparatus. A Chief's interview again was the final component of the process. Chris Mitchell was promoted to the rank of Engineer effective July 1, 2011 also. Within the fire department there remain two vacant Engineer positions for which testing will occur in September, and the need to establish an active firefighter hiring list, as the two vacant Engineer positions will create firefighter positions when filled. During all of the fire department personnel changes, vacancies, and testing processes our Personnel Department assisted our department in all aspects of selection of those promoted to fill new roles. It should be noted that through all of this, Personnel was also experiencing personnel changes, leading to fewer people to handle the load, all while learning the testing process.

Promotions:

A big thank you to all who helped with the promotions and testing, and continue to assist us with upcoming testing and promotional selection.



Captain
Jon Chambers



Captain
Mitchell Mills



Captain
Patrick Beyer



Engineer
Chris Mitchell

An additional personnel change occurred at the end of the quarter when Fire Services Officer Lisa Pulver accepted a position with Eureka Police Department. Her departure leaves the fire department one position short in the Fire Department front office, and leaves a considerable void in the area of budget management, as she provided considerable knowledge in the overall workings of the Fire Department budget. Fortunately she is just across the street should questions arise or advice be needed for the many areas she worked until a suitable replacement is found and trained. Some of her workload will be covered by our remaining fire department administrative staff, some by other various department members, and some budget related duties will be handled by the Finance Department. We wish Lisa all the best success in the challenges of her new job.

While many challenges occurred during the quarter, especially in the staffing and personnel realm, such challenges often present opportunities as well. Changes in personnel, especially through retirement or departure for other jobs can be viewed as a loss of experience, but can also be a source of new learning opportunities and enthusiasm for those learning new jobs or taking on fresh job tasks to help carry and cover a temporary vacancy. Even with these changes and challenges, the Eureka Fire Department will continue to provide service to our community and our customers, and will strive to do so safely, efficiently, effectively, with professionalism, respect, honor, and pride.

Bill Gillespie

This quarter the Fire Prevention Bureau continued our education, enforcement, investigation, and other activities. We were pleased to participate in several new project developments. We conducted construction inspections on the Winzler and Kelly remodel in the old McMahon's Building and at the Fisherman's Building. We reviewed plans and participated in development proposals for the Open Door Clinic, Shamus T-Bones, a Bayshore Mall TI, and the Schneider Marine Terminal. It's exciting to see these new projects progressing in our City.

In June I was fortunate to attend the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. I attended a two-week course in "Communications for Emergency Services Success". The academy provides high quality instruction and curriculum as well as networking opportunities with emergency services professional from across the country. I hope to achieve attendance at the academy by as many of our personnel as I can.

Following you will find reports for various fire prevention and related activities for the quarter.

Enforcement / Abatement Issues

We continue to work with the City Improvement Team on code enforcement and abatement cases. We participated in joint property inspections, warrant service inspections, and follow ups, as well as attending various meetings.

Property / Development Issues

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

- Winzler and Kelly Tennant Improvement
- Schneider Marine Terminal
- Open Door Clinic; Tydd Street
- Fisherman's Building

Significant project proposals reviewed this quarter include:

- Shamus T-Bones restaurant on Truesedale behind the Bayshore Inn
- Tennant Improvement, Bayshore Mall

Public Education and Events

A variety of fire and life safety presentations were presented this quarter. Businesses frequently request our assistance in emergency and evacuation planning and fire drills, and this quarter was no exception. Every year the Senior Resource Center requests our assistance with their drill which was conducted in May.

A fun activity was our participation in Eureka High School's "Egg Drop". We assisted these future engineers in testing their egg-protection designs by dropping them from our ladder truck.

Our most significant public education event of the quarter was our participation with the Humboldt County Fire Prevention Officers in staffing the fire education trailer at the Redwood Acres Fair. The trailer provides high-visibility smoke alarm and home fire escape education for fair attendees.



Fire Investigations

There were eight investigation team level cases initiated this quarter. Two were found to be incendiary and the rest are undetermined or pending.

An intensive 60-hour crime scene investigation class was conducted at our public safety training facility. This course was attended by nine police and fire agencies including ten Eureka police and fire personnel.

Haz Mat Response Team (HMRT)

There was one HMRT response this quarter to the Ferndale post office. A white powder in a mail bin was determined to be non-hazardous.

The team provided training for several regional training courses including four training sessions to Cal Fire, one to the HROP Firefighter academy, and three for the Eureka/Humboldt fire departments.

The team continues its efforts to establish multi-agency team membership.

Prevention

Inspection Activities

Fire Prevention Bureau Inspection Activities Capt. II Laidlaw and A/C Goodlive

	<i>This Quarter</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
<i>Type of Inspection</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>#</i>
FPO Inspections this Month		
• Code Enforcement	7	14
• City Facility	18	22
• Construction / Occupancy	11	16
• Other (CIT)	7	14
Open Cases>28 Days		
• Permits		
• Fireworks	24	24
• Other Permits		
Miscellaneous		
• Vacant Buildings	4	4
<i>Totals</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>94</i>

Fire Inspector Activities - Inspector Walser

	<i>This Quarter</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
<i>Type of Inspection</i>	<i>#</i>	<i>#</i>
R1/R2		
• # Scheduled	101	216
• % Completed	90.09%	94.44%
• Open Enforcement	10	12
Licensed Facility Assigned		
• # Scheduled	15	29
• % Completed	60%	68.97%
• Open Enforcement	6	9
Commercial	-	-
Weed/Trash Abatement		
• # Cases Opened	56	56
• Total Open Enforcement	45	48

Fire Suppression Division Inspection Activities - Engine Companies

	<i>This Quarter</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
Blocks Assigned	78	158
Total Businesses in Assigned Blocks	345	681
Inspections Completed	279	507
Follow Up Inspections	55	109
Referred to FPB	4	7

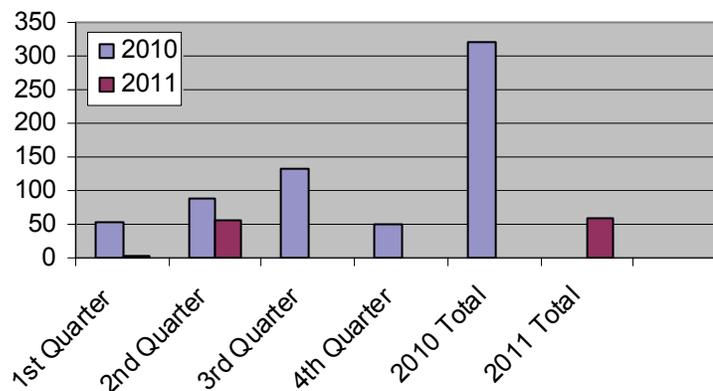
Prevention

Plan Review

	<i>This Quarter</i>	<i>Year to Date</i>
Number of Plans Reviewed	29	55
% Completed < 21 days	28	54
Number of Plans Approved	24	48
Amount Billed @ \$98.60/hr (Does not include 15% City Admin Fee)	\$4,602.00	\$7,627.70

Weed Abatement

Program activity: 56 cases opened this quarter totaling 60 over the year.



Weed Abatement Cases

The number of new weed cases opened increased from 4 last quarter to 56 this quarter. The number of cases historically increase during the spring and summer quarters.

Emergency Management (EOC)

Fiscal 2011/12 budget was approved including funding for EOC training. Development of a training plan is pending.

Other Issues

During this interim period where Chief Gillespie and I are functioning under a modified administrative structure, Fire Prevention Officer Ed Laidlaw and Inspector Bill Walser have stepped up to support the Prevention Bureau. They have enthusiastically and successfully risen to the challenge of the increased work and responsibility I have passed on to them. Without their help the effectiveness of the Prevention Bureau would be diminished by the increased workload.

*Respectfully,
Rusty Goodlive*

The Second Quarter of 2011 remained busy at the fire department, with activities ranging from emergency response, to budget preparation, to equipment repair and replacement. Also being worked on were participation in contract negotiations for two employee groups, and research into the potential of a departmental redeployment and allocation of personnel positions; work on this remains ongoing. Additionally, EFD saw a recruit firefighter training academy for four new firefighters, the promotion of a Fire Captain II, the retirement of a senior Fire Captain, and the testing and promotion of three new Fire Captains and one Engineer. We also saw FSO Lisa Pulver accept a position with EPD; we are working with Personnel to establish a process to select a replacement, with this selection process being an open application process.

During May I met with representatives from Cal EMA regarding possible reimbursement of some costs generated in response to the Tsunami event March 11th, 2011. It was determined that the overtime, food, and fire apparatus equipment costs incurred in direct preparation and mitigation the day of the tsunami were eligible for a partial reimbursement payment. A project report was submitted through Cal EMA in early June. A total of \$6,554 was identified as qualifying costs, with 75% potential reimbursement possible. It is unknown what the disbursement timeframe will be.

Tsunami watch Hwy 101 / Elk River



Collaborative work continues with Humboldt Fire District in a number of operational areas. Both departments continue to share a training officer position. We also are working together to implement consistent operational and fire ground policies and procedures. This quarter, the departments continue to collaborate on potential purchasing areas, where collateral duty holders discuss needs, and purchases are coordinated with vendors to work for better price quotes while maintaining each jurisdiction's respective purchasing requirements.

Another area of joint work with both HFD and AFD is through our mapping and target hazard project. All three are working with the same mapping software company, Iron Compass, to provide consistent mapping and target hazard information. It was identified by our participant in the process that a modern laptop was needed for him to be effective in his work. Following discussion with City of Eureka IT, an adequate laptop has been purchased with end of the fiscal year monies within the fire department, with the laptop scheduled for arrival soon.

The department continues to work to address Personal Protective Equipment needs such as turnouts. Captain II Robertson took over PPE with the retirement of Captain Churchwell midway through the first quarter. EFD received word in late May that we were unsuccessful in our Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant application for replacement PPE funding. Through permission of the City Manager prior to our notification of the unsuccessful grant application, the matching funds budgeted in 2010-11 were allowed to be used for PPE purchase that AFG would have credited toward the overall match required. Captain II Robertson was able to purchase nine additional sets of turnouts with the grant match amount of \$14,800. The purchase allowed him to reach a short term goal of having all personnel in gear less than 5 years old. He hopes to have adequate funding to purchase new turnouts for our remaining personnel next fiscal year, and working to meet a secondary short-term goal of equipping all personnel with a second backup set of turnouts less than 5 years old; the backup set would in most cases be the previously replaced set of fitted turnouts worn by the employee. He has been working to replace our rubber departmental structure boots with a leather version that provide increased traction, are lighter, and provide a better overall fit for personnel. Captain II Robertson continues to work toward a long-term replacement program or plan, and evaluation of new PPE options to better equip our personnel.

Beginning in June, our fleet of fire apparatus has been undergoing annual pump testing by our crews. The City Corp Yard has been assisting by sending a fire apparatus mechanic to assist with trouble shooting as

Operations

available. Testing occurs at the Arcata Fire Protection's Mad River Station, as that is the closest adequate pump testing site in our local area. Two intake ball valves were ordered to replace aging valves in service. You may recall that two intake ball valves required replacement during the first quarter on Truck 8181 due to age and wear. All valves have been in service for many years across the fleet. The department will work to replace additional valves through next fiscal budget, then fall into a plan to replace one valve each year. Other equipment needs are planned to be addressed in a similar fashion on an annual basis as funding allows, such as saw replacement and extrication equipment. A replacement smoke ejector fan was also purchased to replace an aging fan where repair parts were no longer available.

Our fleet of SCBA's have fallen off warranty, and repairs are becoming more costly. Such has been the case over the past quarter. Also identified within our SCBA and Breathing Air program is the need to train another departmental member in repair of the MAKO air compressor. The department currently has only one trained repair person who is routinely able to complete minor repairs to the unit. Without personnel trained, we must bring a repair person from Oakland each time a hose or other wear item is replaced. The addition of this training was added to the budget request for the 2011/12 fiscal budget.



Numerous facility repair issues remain to be fixed during the quarter. Sheetrock at Station 3 was repaired during the quarter following plumbing repair in January. 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 continued through the spring 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 missing in places following significant leaks in the roof last year. Replacement of the HQ roof has been identified in the 2011-12 proposed budget as a Measure O funded project. Our department continues to work with Building Maintenance to address these issues, though work has been slow due to numerous personnel within their division being off during the first two quarters. Building maintenance has worked hard on critical repairs, with less pressing repairs deferred until funding and personnel are available.

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 to adequately house the many additional services that the department currently provides.

The department is preparing for a federally mandated switch to narrow band radio frequencies. Communication frequency licenses have returned from the FCC. EFD and HFD are working together for a coordinated reprogramming. This programming has previously been delayed due to demand on our radio contract provider and frequency and licensing coordination issues. It is anticipated that programming will occur during late summer. Four Bendix King programmable radios were purchased for use with the Cal EMA fire engine assigned to EFD. Cal EMA provides an engine with one Bendix King radio, as this is the recognized radio utilized by Cal Fire and USFS. Communications are critical for the safety of the four crew members and possible strike team leader on any deployment. Those sent will now have compatible communications with the lead wildland agencies anywhere in the state. The radios also carry programming that allows them to be used locally and within the Eureka area.

Hilfiker Training site work continues. Regular maintenance mowing and road maintenance continued during the quarter. Captain II Jelinek continued to work with Engineering on the drill tower lighting and electrical project. Plans were completed

Operations

and a building permit has been issued. Engineering ran a bid process for the project, with all bids coming back above the projected cost. Funding for the project will come from a couple of sources, including \$5,000 donated last fall by PG&E that was earmarked for the drill tower electrical improvement project upon receipt. Remaining funding is being investigated, but will likely come from the Joint Fire Services account shared by EFD and HFD for maintenance of Hilfiker and other common interests.

Rescue Systems Level 2 site accreditation continues to be a priority project for the Hilfiker Training site. This 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 training out of the area. A large equipment item required for RS2 accreditation is a loader, or all terrain forklift, capable of lifting 12,000-15,000 pounds and dedicated to the site; used equipment and funding options are being explored. Also being pursued at the training site is the addition of a concrete pad along the training tower to allow crews to pull and deploy fire hose without dragging it through the mud. EFD is working in conjunction with Engineering to complete plans and specifications for a surface that will support our ladder truck. The departmental safety officers of both Eureka Fire and Humboldt Fire have identified areas of safety concern at the training site, and has been generated to mark and mitigate identified hazards on the site. Many visible trip hazards have already been removed or marked.

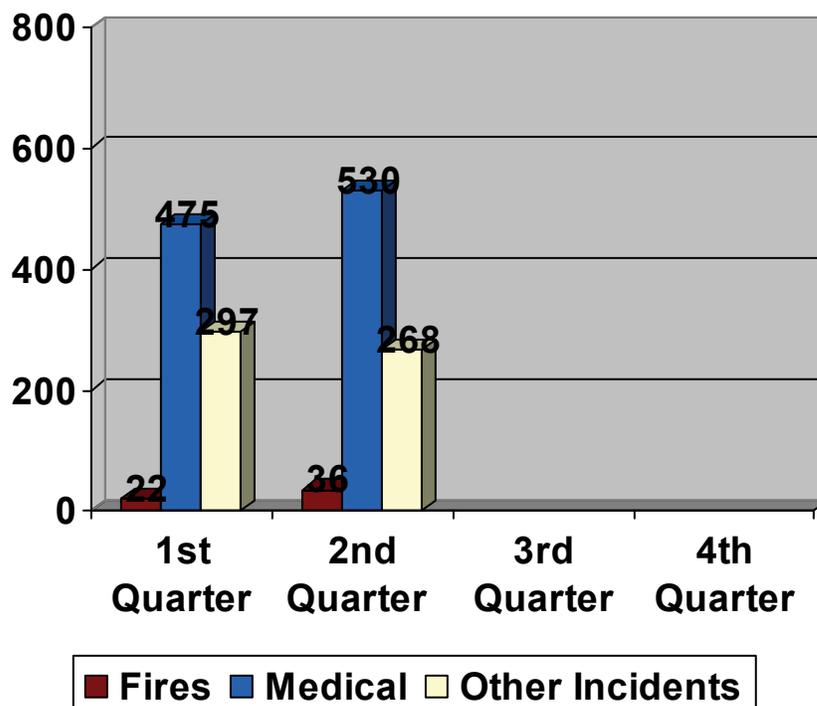
INCIDENT ACTIVITY

During the second quarter, EFD responded to a total of 834 calls for service. Fire calls represented 36 calls, 16 of which fell into the structure fire category. Overall estimated dollar loss from fires was \$264,500 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 530 incidents.

All other calls for service accounted for 268 responses.

2011 Incident Responses



*Respectfully,
Bill Gillespie*