

= Phoenix ( fireboat ) =

Phoenix is a fireboat owned by State of California and operated by the city of San Francisco in the San Francisco Bay since 1955 . Phoenix is known for helping to save Marina District buildings from further destruction by fire following the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake . Her worthy assistance resulted in a second vintage fireboat obtained for the city . Both Guardian and Phoenix are based at Firehouse No. 35 at Pier 22 ½ of the Port of San Francisco . Phoenix often leads parades of ships , and takes part in welcoming ceremonies .

= = History = =

The city of San Francisco operated two fireboats in the 1900s : Governor Irwin and Governor Markham . Both were capable of pumping about 1 @, @ 000 US gallons ( 3 @, @ 800 L ) per minute . These two , assisted by tugboats and military fireboats , tried but failed to stop the horrific fires which swept the city after the 1906 San Francisco earthquake . In 1909 , two new fireboats were placed in service ? David Scannell and Dennis T. Sullivan ? steam @-@ powered boats each rated for 9 @, @ 000 ? 10 @, @ 000 US gallons ( 34 @, @ 000 ? 38 @, @ 000 L ) per minute . A firehouse was built for them at the edge of the Panama ? Pacific International Exposition in 1915 . This firehouse was moved by barge to Pier 22 ½ near the intersection of Harrison Street and Embarcadero following the Exposition , when the old fair buildings were being torn down and the Marina District was being built in its place . The two fireboats served the city for 45 years and were scrapped in 1954 .

To fill the anticipated lack of a fireboat , Phoenix was built in 1954 in Alameda by Hugh F. Munroe of Plant Shipyard , paid for by the State of California . Her name came from a contest publicized by the Port Authority ; the winning suggestion was submitted by a member of the Phoenix Society , a group of San Francisco citizens interested in civil fire protection . Phoenix , the mythical firebird which rose anew from ashes , seemed appropriate because the city of San Francisco had risen seven times from great fires .

Phoenix is 89 feet ( 27 m ) long with a 19 @. @ 5 @-@ foot ( 5 @. @ 9 m ) beam and a 7 @-@ foot ( 2 @. @ 1 m ) draft . Phoenix can pump up to 6 @, @ 400 US gallons ( 24 @, @ 000 L ) at a pressure of 150 pounds per square inch ( 1 @, @ 000 kPa ) , or at the rate of 3 @, @ 200 US gallons ( 12 @, @ 000 L ) per minute at twice the pressure . She can make 15 knots ( 28 km / h ; 17 mph ) . When put into service in 1955 , Phoenix was the only fireboat based in San Francisco . Like her predecessors , she docked at Pier 22 ½ ; one of only two remaining 1915 Exposition buildings , the other being the Palace of Fine Arts .

Two decades later , Phoenix was the subject of discussions about the city budget . In the late 1970s , the fireboat 's annual operating expenses were about \$ 1 @. @ 2 million . Mayor George Moscone met with the San Francisco Port Commission in 1977 to determine whether Phoenix would be refurbished , replaced , or scrapped with no replacement . An improvement bond was passed in November 1977 to build a new fireboat . Local naval architects Morris Guralnick Associates submitted a design in 1980 to replace Phoenix , but the estimated construction costs far exceeded the bond . Instead , Mayor Dianne Feinstein redirected the funds to refurbish Phoenix in 1981 ? 1982 .

= = Firefighting = =

Phoenix 's first call to action came on April 2 , 1955 . A four @-@ alarm blaze at the Ferry Building greatly damaged the north end of the building ; losses came to \$ 750 @, @ 000 . Other notable fires that Phoenix fought include Pier 70 burning in 1980 , and a lengthy battle at Piers 30 ? 32 throughout the night of May 9 ? 10 , 1984 ? a five @-@ alarm explosive conflagration which destroyed the piers and caused an estimated \$ 2 @. @ 5 million in damage .

Local shipping accidents are among the responsibilities of the Phoenix . In September 1965 , the Norwegian freighter MS Berganger collided with the tanker Independent , resulting in fires aboard

the ships . Phoenix responded along with U.S. Coast Guard fireboats to quickly put out the freighter 's blaze , but the tanker took longer to extinguish . A year later , a gasoline barge collided with rocks near the shore . While Phoenix and the Coast Guard were investigating , the barge exploded killing two Coast Guardsmen and one nearby workman . Phoenix rescued a third Coast Guardsman with severe injuries , and fought to snuff the blaze . Flaming , floating gasoline proved difficult to subdue . In December 2011 , a tourist DUKW boat suffered an engine fire while in McCovey Cove , and Phoenix doused the flames while the Coast Guard rescued the passengers and crew .

= = = 1989 Marina District fires = = =

Phoenix played a notable role in the response to the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake . At 5 : 04 pm on October 17 , 1989 , a major earthquake rumbled through the San Francisco Bay Area . One of the hardest @-@ hit locations was the Marina District of San Francisco ; a densely populated neighborhood built up primarily in the 1920s on rubble , sand and debris dumped at the edge of the bay following the 1906 earthquake . A number of buildings collapsed , and firefighters were called to rescue trapped residents . Subsequent to a sharp aftershock , a fire broke out in a three @-@ story building at Divisadero and Jefferson , threatening nearby buildings . Fire engines connected their hoses to the city 's seawater @-@ based Auxiliary Water Supply System ( AWSS ) and began to quench the fire , but an explosion caused the structure to collapse onto the fire hydrant . Fire crews were forced back , and with the assistance of off @-@ duty police and civilian volunteers they ran hoses four blocks away to alternate sources . Further explosions caused other structures to collapse onto the newly laid hoses . At about the same time , other fire companies in the Marina were reporting water pressure problems with both the AWSS and the regular municipal water system . The AWSS was suffering from broken underground lines and from a 20 % loss in stored water volume ? both from earthquake damage ? and from broken high pressure hydrants caused by building collapses . At 6 : 16 pm Phoenix was called to assist .

At 6 : 49 pm fire crews waiting to connect to Phoenix reported she was having difficulty getting close enough because of low tide conditions . Despite the problems requiring pilot and commander Arvid Havneras to perform an extraordinarily hazardous docking procedure , at 7 : 00 pm Phoenix was ready to pump at the Marina lagoon , two blocks away from the first fire . By this time the whole neighborhood was threatened with destruction by fire . Fire crews were manning hoses laid in anticipation ; firefighters at the burning buildings were instructed to hold their ground , that they would soon have more water .

Phoenix connected hoses to an engine company and to two ladder trucks and commenced pumping seawater from the bay . Fire crews renewed their efforts , making a frontal attack on burning structures . Soon , one of the Fire Department 's Hose Tenders arrived in the lagoon carrying 5 @,@ 000 feet ( 1 @,@ 500 m ) of 5 @-@ inch ( 130 mm ) hose , followed shortly by another hose tender ? they connected to Phoenix to relay water to more distant engine companies . In a parallel effort , the AWSS lines were inspected by city workers , temporary repairs made , and two high @-@ pressure pump stations were brought back into operation at about 8 pm , supplying 10 @,@ 000 U.S. gallons per minute . Phoenix worked until all the Marina fires were under control , pumping seawater continuously for 15 hours at the rate of 6 @,@ 400 gallons per minute , a total of 5 @.@ 5 million gallons ( 20 @.@ 8 ML ) .

Phoenix is credited with saving the area from further destruction . One of Feinstein 's last mayoral acts was to save the city 's only fireboat from suggested budget cuts . Some 21 months later the earthquake struck . Feinstein wrote that the boat " unquestionably saved the Marina from a greater catastrophe " . The fireboat 's role in the earthquake is the subject of a children 's book , Frankie & The Phoenix . Senator Feinstein read the book to students at the opening of a new San Francisco elementary school dedicated in her name in August 2006 .

Subsequent to the 1989 earthquake , \$ 50 @,@ 000 from grateful Marina property owners , and \$ 300 @,@ 000 from an anonymous donor were used to provide Phoenix with a colleague . Guardian , an older fireboat built in 1951 , was purchased from the City of Vancouver , British Columbia , and refurbished . She was piloted down the Pacific Coast to dock alongside Phoenix at Pier 22 ½ . In

1999 , the shared fireboat house was declared San Francisco 's 225th Historic Landmark .

A planned monument to the 1989 earthquake , the Marina Earthquake Memorial , focuses on the role of Phoenix in the Marina firefighting effort and will incorporate the original 16 @-@ foot @-@ high ( 5 m ) tower monitor from Phoenix as a centerpiece of the memorial design .

= = Ceremonial appearances = =

Phoenix has taken a lead role in many spectacles on the San Francisco Bay . The fireboat regularly leads parades on the bay , escorts famous ships entering the bay , and participates in tall ship events and Fleet Week in San Francisco . Phoenix threw out plumes of water to celebrate the reopening of the San Francisco ? Oakland Bay Bridge on November 16 , 1989 following its closure due to earthquake damage . Phoenix welcomed the historic cruise vessell SS Independence to San Francisco in November 2001 . In July 2005 , Phoenix led the " Parade of Sail " from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Bay Bridge . Famous tall ships in the parade included the 270 @-@ foot ( 82 m ) barque ARM Cuauhtémoc from Mexico and the 356 @-@ foot ( 109 m ) Pallada from Russia . Other ships included the Liberty ship SS Jeremiah O 'Brien and the presidential yacht USS Potomac ? both based in San Francisco Bay . In 2008 , Phoenix led a similar parade including Californian ( California 's official tall ship , based in San Diego ) and the Coast Guard barque the Eagle . The Jeremiah O 'Brien took part as did the U.S. Navy submarine Pampanito .

= = Crew and maintenance = =

Phoenix is normally operated with a crew of one vessel command Fireboat officer , one engineer who operates the pumps and engines , one pilot who steers / navigates the boat , one fire Engine company officer , and three to five firefighters to handle hoses and nozzles . Firehouse 35 on Pier 22 ½ has seven men on duty at all times : four to serve Engine # 35 , and three dedicated to the two fireboats . All seven are able to man the fireboats in an emergency . As many as ten men can work Phoenix , but in October 1989 after Engine # 35 was called to duty , only three were available : Pilot Arvid Havneras , Engineer Nate Hardy , and Lieutenant Bob Banchero . Both fireboat pilot and engineer are licensed by the US Coast Guard .

In the early 2000s , San Francisco spent \$ 1 @. @ 7 million each year to operate its two fireboats . Maintenance problems on the historic vessels increased to the point that Phoenix needed to be lifted into dry dock for extensive repairs to the hull . The fireboat was thoroughly renovated in 2004 at Bayside Boatworks in Sausalito , California .