

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – April 2017

I just went back to look at last month's article to see where I left off on the Bridge incident update. Just before I sent in my article we were close to reaching the completion of the trail construction.

So much has happened since then! Please look elsewhere in the Round Up for my Summary of the Unified Command and what we are doing. CPOA has sent an article in as well.

While our call numbers have gone down due to the road closure we did have one rescue at Jade Cove that had many agencies responding. A female got her leg stuck under a boulder near the water and was not only not able to move but was injured as well. With the bridge out and needing to go through Paul's slide to get to the incident it was, as we knew it would be, a bit more of a challenge responding. We had Cambria CalFire and Ambulance responding from the south end, SO rescue coming from town down 101 and over Nacimiento, CHP helo H70, CalStar, AMR ambulance from Big Sur quarters and USFS. Eventually SO rescue and Cambria ambulance were cancelled. The patient was flown out via CalStar.

We are meeting this week with other agencies to review our call response to the south side and how incidents will be handled? Will we be able to get a tow truck? Does the FB start moving vehicles off the road? I am still trying to get a PG&E truck staged over on the south side, we need it for any wires down in particular, in the summer live wires starting a vegetation fire are a real concern.

We are reaching the end of our FF 1 class, we have transitioned to the wildland portion of it and the class is hiking across the trail to go to the fire house for their training. By the end of June we will be finished. We had a very successful day with the North Tree fire live fire trailer. Such great training! There really isn't much opportunity, thank goodness, to experience live fire and see how the fire reacts to different hose patterns. So it is really great for the new people to experience the heat, smoke, darkness and fire behavior. As we couldn't access the fire house to fill our air bottles MC Regional Fire generously offered to have their air resupply engine come down for the day to refill our bottles. El Sur ranch also donated the use of their water tender and operator for the day. We very much appreciated having them there!

The Fire Brigade, like everyone else, is trying to get into a routine of our trainings and meetings, having the trail opened is a huge help. Unfortunately for the members on the south side our classes like Hazmat will probably be on the north side, I can't expect the instructor to hike over.

We are getting ready for the Marathon coming up next Sunday; I think we have worked out how to handle this year's event.

A reminder, burn season will end April 30th!! No more "back yard" burning!! This last month residents have been busy getting in their final burning,

Martha Karstens
Chief