

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – June 2017

It seems we have gone quite quickly from cold, chilly weather to a heat wave, and along with it more added fire danger. The grasses are all dried out and taller than normal due to all the rain. We just were paged out to a fire on Nacimiento Road recently. We had a great response from the Fire Brigade with 2 engines, 2 tenders and 1 patrol responding along with 8 FB members. We were fortunate in that the fire was reported quickly and I'm told some locals got there first to help out. We had USFS, Cal Fire and Hunter Liggett fire all respond in addition to us. There are challenges now with no bridge which can require FB members to cross the bridge work area depending on what side the incident is on. We have worked out an agreement with the bridge crew where when we have an incident we call them ahead of time and give them a heads up that Brigade members will be crossing through the area. The added time is really quite minimal. We arrange for someone to pick up any responding Brigade member(s) on the other side and take them to the fire house if the incident is on the south side. Post Ranch has been very helpful with this! We have preplanned our response for both the north and south side of the bridge. Those of us on the north side now have to wait for an ambulance to respond from town.

While we have not had many incidents one of the recent accidents we did have was a very major one with severe injuries, multiple patients, and a fatality and we did wait for an ambulance to come from town. We also had help from a Cal Fire engine, State Parks responded, Cal Trans was already on scene helping with traffic and El Sur ranch established a LZ.

Trey and Rayner, initially on scene all by themselves, did an excellent job dealing with the 6 patients, triaging them and attending to the most severely injured. We ended up having 2 helicopters, 3 ambulances and the coroner respond.

Our calls have picked up a little bit, we only had 4 for April and May, and now the same day as the fire we had 2 more calls for a total of 3, reminiscent of a normal year. We are up to 10 already so far this month. We'll see what happens when the State Park reopens (most) of all their campsites on the 1st. Julia Pfeiffer Burns is not planned on being open until the bridge is in.

A follow up on the AT&T service down on the south coast, the 805 area code has been reestablished by use of a microwave which will be powered by solar until Mud CK. is complete. The AT&T van did get moved temporarily to Plaskett campground and now that everything has been repaired it will be removed. So a good job and pretty quick work from AT&T considering the challenges.

We continue on with the Unified Command meetings every other week with the Cal Trans conference calls the other week. Lots of work is being done on the Pfeiffer Canyon bridge trail which is still on schedule to be open on July 1 to the public. It will be a Class 1 trail when they complete the work. The plan to bring it up to that level was in place prior to the decision to open it to the public.

We also confirmed with Cal Trans that there was nothing wrong with the bridge on Nacimiento road and the convoys are not damaging it. Also the road itself is fine, the black tire marks are just that, marks and not damage. The pavement is apparently a little soft where the USFS did the road repairs.

USFS is being proactive and trying to get the campfire ban and no disbursed camping bans through. (We did just get the notification that the no camp fire ban is now in place!)

Save the date for the annual Big Sur River Run Saturday October 28th!!

Martha Karstens
Chief