

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – March 2016

I took my annual journey over Nacimiento to King City about a week ago. Usually I head over in April but that annual meeting is now changed. A month ahead of time did make some difference in the flowers. Although the rain might have made a difference too..... There were a number of Lupine on our side of Naci, none of my favorite sticky monkey on steroids, and a very few on the East side of Naci. There was a low carpet of a yellow some kind of flower way over by Hunter Liggett. The poppies at the old Harlan property on the West side north of Lucia were just starting to open.

There is part of the road about halfway up that is eroding away on the outside edge, it is covered with plastic now in the hopes to prevent further erosion. I hope they can fix it as it is our only back way out if Highway One is closed. The bridge over by Hunter Liggett had a sign taped to it that said 20 ton limit instead of the usual 60 tons; I've emailed my HL contact to check on what's up with that. Having the highway close doesn't seem like it is going to be a problem at least at this point. It would be nice to get some more good rain but I don't know what our chances are.

It looks like Easter weekend will be nice and warm so I'm sure a million people will be down here. I'm a little surprised that there aren't many, many more calls with all the people down here. Somehow they all manage for the most part to come and go without getting into too much trouble.

Although last week we were back and forth to the south coast with back to back calls, a medical at Willow CK., an accident at Salmon CK., a medical rescue at Limekiln and at the same time a medical rescue at J.P. Burns which we initially handed off to SO rescue.

At one point during the one really good storm we had all the phones down again so there was no way to dial 911, T-1 lines and cell service were out as well. Our County radio system also went down, and up, and down, in fact about 180 times during the rain. We were just about to go to our back up system when it came back on. I'm not sure why our land lines are going out now, they used to be the one reliable means of communications we would have during even the worst storms. I'm going to bring it up at our next BSMACC meeting.

We were contacted by CMC rescue about doing a drill along the coast; they had some new rescue gear they wanted to demo and also wanted some scenic pictures to advertise the gear. We got a full day of free rescue training out of the deal! We met down near Sand Dollar and spent most of the day training and putting rescuers over the side. A great opportunity for us, and now we all want the new fancy gear 😊

We have been training, training and more training! There is medical training to finish recerting by June, Hazmat recert, a driver operator class and our usual fire and rescue training, never a dull moment. The Marathon is coming up next month too.

I should have put this in last month's article but I forgot. We have had the time change and that is the time to remember to check your batteries in any smoke/carbon monoxide alarms you may have.

Burn season will end next month, April 30th, so better get going if you have any piles left to burn. It is always a possibility to get a warm, dry spell and have the burn season end early!

Martha Karstens
Chief