

Big Sur Fire News

March 2018

We have started our first Big Sur Fire basic training class with ten local residents who signed up for it. This is an intensive three month course with class twice a week and homework. Then the new recruits will be required to attend our usual fire trainings twice a month for the remainder of the year. They are a great group of folks with four of them living on the south coast and they have committed the considerable time out of their busy schedules to take the class. Captain Matt Harris put a lot of work into coordinating the class and we're excited we could get ten new Brigade members when the class is finished.

Our FF Wendy Waters has passed her semester long EMT class and the difficult and challenging state exam, so if you see her be sure to congratulate her! It is a huge commitment driving to town to MPC twice a week.

Thank you to John Handy for generously donating his time and leading Big Sur Fire in two Vision Sessions where almost the entire Brigade and Board members met on two separate days to brainstorm ideas and visions for the future of Big Sur Fire. We brought up all sorts of ideas then narrowed them down by importance and assigned groups to further brain storm them. Anything and everything was mentioned, from the smallest vision to the largest which included the ideas of bulldozers and helicopters.

I spoke with Matt Little of Carmel Insurance the other day and he said that in the wake of the Napa, Sonoma and Santa Barbara fires where more than 8,400 structures were burned, the insurance market is really getting more stringent in their risk management requirements. Insurance companies may come out and inspect your property to verify Cal Fire compliance or request written evidence that your home and property have passed a Cal Fire inspection. The regulations are the MINIMUM standard and some properties may have to do more in the case of steep terrain. Insurance regulations allow for non-renewal and even cancellations in some cases for "increase in the hazard" related to non-compliance. In addition, many companies are moving away from writing new business on homes with any kind of wood roof.

Burn season will end next month! Right now with all the rain we have been having it looks promising that burn season will go until the end of April. Everyone can hopefully continue to do more clearing and burning.

Spring is here and while it may or may not be a "Miracle March" with lots of rain, the hillsides are greening up nicely. We shall see what Mother Nature has in store for us. Other than a few road closures down south we seemed to survive the latest storm OK, depending on where you were there was anywhere from 5 to almost 10 inches. A nice rain!!

Already it is time to start our planning for the Marathon; it will be April before we know it!

Martha Karstens
Chief