

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – May 2016

I'm having a bad case of writers block but here goes....

I went to the first follow up meeting to discuss the issue of "too many people in Big Sur", last week. Thanks to John Handy for hosting the meeting!! Kathleen Lee did a great job facilitating it. She handed out spread sheets with the issues in one column and action items and who would or could be addressing them in the other columns. We need to determine what agencies are responsible for what sections of the roads, in particular down on south coast. It seems to be a mix of USFS and County. This way it can be determined what agency is responsible for enforcement. There will be more meetings to try and find some workable solutions to issues like campfires and camping alongside the road among other things.

Our medical recertification is finally over, great information and training but getting home after 10:00 makes for a long day. Now that medical has finished we will focus on our 40 hour driver/operator class. In addition we will have wildland school to get ready for at the end of June. We're also gearing up for Memorial Day, we never know what it will bring. It looks like relatively nice weather, unfortunately no rain in the forecast.

I haven't had an update from Cal Fire but as far as I know the inspections will still be happening at some point.

The Brigade has purchased 6 new radios from funds from a grant from the Community Foundation. These will work in conjunction with an in vehicle repeater, which is sort of a mini repeater. This will boost our signal and allow us to get out on our radios for better communication in bad areas.

Our call volume looks like it will surpass last year at this time. We'll see what Memorial Day brings...This time last year at the end of May we were up to 117, right now we're at 114.

The AMGEN bicycle event came through last week. I understood there would be rolling closures, that was not really the case. I was stopped at the park entrance for 25 minutes. I went back and read the flyer and found buried in small print "(total road closure)" right after the temporary road closure.

I'm not sure what the impact was as far as traffic backed up behind the bicyclists. I have asked Kathleen Lee to set up a meeting with AMGEN to address some public safety issues.

Last but certainly not least, our annual Muster/BBQ is coming up soon! See the front page for details. We are planning on doing the children's games again which are always fun.

Martha Karstens
Chief

**Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade
Annual Muster / BBQ
Saturday, June 11, 2016
Noon to 3:00 PM \$12.00 adults - \$6.00 Children
The best BBQ ever!! "Jaws of Life" demonstration -
CALSTAR Air Ambulance fly in!**