

**Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade  
Fire Brigade News – November 2015**

Unlike last year, we made it through the River Run and the Bal Masque this year without any rain, beautiful weather for both events. It would have been nice if we had more runners for the event, unfortunately there was another 10K in town on the same day. The runners that did come down had a great run and we were happy to have a good turnout of volunteers from the community. Please read the article from Kirk regarding Nepenthe's wonderful matching grant for the Fire Brigade and Health Center elsewhere in the Round Up.

The attendance for the Bal Masque was incredible! Hundreds of people came in all their weird and crazy outfits. There were people waiting for us in the parking lot to buy tickets when we got there at 5:00. The weather couldn't have been more perfect, actually it was a little on the warm side. There was great entertainment by Paige Two and **Hanif Wondir, the DJ**. The Captain Cooper kids did their usual great job with the posters we put up around the community to advertise for the party.

Our Judges, one a real one, Bill Burleigh, and Ray and Celia Sanborn had a hard time choosing the Costume awards.....thank you for all your decisions. The Best Overall was The Lady with the Table, Laura Schulaind from Bixby, and she won dinner for two at the Post Ranch, Most Original went to the Dog and Fairy, Britta and Arnold Stevebeutter from Carmel, dinner for two at Ventana, Funniest was Party Animals, David and Amy Stone also from Carmel, dinner for two at Deetjens and lastly, Scariest most gruesome, a Vampire and Dracula won by Chris and Lisa Balthasir from Santa Cruz, dinner for two at the Bakery. (please excuse any misspellings in the names, it was very loud there!!)

Thank you to the CERT and community members for helping "work" the event!! We so appreciate the support from the resorts and businesses, we couldn't do it without you! And of course, last but certainly not least, Thank you so much to Nepenthe for continuing to allow the Fire Brigade to benefit from their great party.

The Fire Brigade had the El Nino meeting with great participation from all but one department. We refreshed our memories on what we have done in the past, how we handled road closures, got the mail in and out etc. A reminder of the sand, sandbags, and pre-filled sand bags that are now available and staged at the Pfeiffer turn out. (Please leave the shovel....:) You may also find sand bags at USFS and MAF too.

We are doing a T22 First Aid class starting this Saturday, CERT members and some Fire Brigade members will be taking the 16 hour class. We hope to have another one early next year. We are also doing are ongoing medical training, it is already time for some of us to recert our medical EMT cards. It seemed like we just finished it, where did two years go!? We also just had a Hazmat recert class, 4 hours, and at the end of the month will be doing a CPR class. Next month we will be having an 8 hour auto extrication class.

We have been getting some lovely rains; the hills are beginning to take on my favorite color green under tones. Burn season will begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>. As usual, if you would like to burn you need to call the burn number at 1-800-225-2876 and see if it is a burn day. If it is a burn day please call the Fire Brigade at 667-2113 and leave your name, location of your burn and a call back number. I am late getting my burn post cards out but they will be coming! If you had a burn permit for last burn season you do not need to fill out one for this year. If not, you may visit our web site at [www.bigsurfire.org](http://www.bigsurfire.org) and download one online and email it in, you can mail in a request to our P.O. Box 520 or just leave a phone message and I will get one to you. You can check the burn status online at [mbuapcd.org](http://mbuapcd.org) and they also show the projected burn status for several days ahead.

We are going to try and have Santa Claus hand out gifts in the fire engine again, but at this time I'm just not sure when that might happen. I will be sure to get the word out to everyone when we decide on a date.  
Happy Thanksgiving!!

Martha Karstens  
Chief