

## Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – October 2014

Although there is a slight feeling of Fall in the air and we have had several chances of showers come through, we are still very much into fire season. We need at least a good 2 inches of rain, preferably more before we breathe a little easier. When we had the last heat wave USFS had their crews stay on late and were doing patrols looking for campfires. There are a lot of people camping along the road, although it has eased up slightly since Labor Day. A popular spot, (must have been a Freudian slip, I kept typing poopular) is by Fullers and Grimes and along with people having campfires is a disgusting amount of debris left behind, including poop, let's hope no one tries to burn their toilet paper and start a fire, which has happened in the past.

We worked the Marathon/Half Marathon on the Old Coast road last month. It always seems to be the hottest day of the year for their event, as if running out to Bixby and back wasn't brutal enough. We got lucky this year and not only didn't have the heat but had a tiny rain shower come through. Our only "action" was to issue some band aids and ice packs.

We are ready to go to the River Run tomorrow where we also work at the event providing aid and traffic control among others things. I had a historic collection of all the RR T shirts from all the races since our first one. We would hang them at the RR each year so everyone could see all the past T shirt logos and colors. Well they all burned up with everything else in the fire so I have been trying to resurrect the collection. I have managed to get all but the RR 28 shirt. So if anyone happens to have that in their drawer and would be willing to donate it that would make the collection complete again. Some of them are a little worse for wear but that's OK....

And the Bal Masque is next on list of events for us; October is a killer month with so much going on. The Jade Festival in early October was another good one; we had our booth and "boot" front and center and sold Brigade merchandise.

The past few months we have had a number of serious calls, including several fatalities. We have used our CPR skills on some of the calls with one of them being successful. There are times in our small community where we are called upon to render aid to our friends and neighbors. This is always the difficult part of our "job", especially when the outcome is not good. At times like this we monitor each other and if need be arrange for CISD debriefings. We recently had two stabbings on the south coast. Then last week we had a crazy day with three roll overs, some of the guys were stuck at one for almost 5 hours with traffic control.

I have been noticing more and more bicycle groups coming to Big Sur, unfortunately they still seem to travel in "packs" and have their support vehicles following slowly behind them holding up traffic. I have been trying to find a way to at least get prior notification when these events are happening.

A test was done last week for the emergency warning system, I got a call on my cell phone. These warnings are typically used for things like fires and flooding for evacuation purposes or shelter in place. You can sign up for these alerts at [www.AlertMontereyCounty.org](http://www.AlertMontereyCounty.org).

I went to town on September 30<sup>th</sup> and had my day ruined, there was the pumpkin patch guy, by the Bank of America, already setting up shop with the awful blow up slides and bounce house. The collection of them seems to grow every year. I drove by the other morning and I'm pretty sure Mickey Mouse was saluting me while he was getting inflated as I went by; all that's missing are the elephants. (this is a totally non-brigade related comment by the way).

We will be having our fire extinguishers checked and filled on November 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to noon at the firehouse if anyone would like to bring up their extinguishers to be checked. There is a fee for any work that needs to be done.

My assumption is that burn season will start as usual on December 1, but I don't know that at this time, as everyone knows this year has seen a severe drought. I will try and keep everyone posted. We will also have you fill out new burn permits for this season. It has been 2 years now since we started issuing them.

A reminder with the daylight savings time coming up on November 2<sup>nd</sup> to change your batteries in your smoke and CO alarms. (as well as set your clocks☺)

Martha Karstens  
Chief