

Big Sur Fire

Big Sur Fire News - August 2018

Open the highway and they will come!! In droves and hoards, a never ending line of cars on Highway One, north and south bound! Our calls took a big jump, 35 in August! Several days we have had 3 to 4 calls a day, it is just insane! We can only hope that with school starting and maybe after Labor Day it might quiet down just a bit.

With half the state of California burning up and the worst and driest time of year still to come it would be good to make sure you have up to date pictures of all the rooms in your home. It seems to work pretty well if you stand in the middle of the room and take a pic of all 4 sides. Then make sure they get put in a safe place or in the cloud. Seeing the stories on the news of all the homes that have been lost is heartbreaking but even worse is the loss of life, so many fire fighters have died battling these fires!

We talked about the issue of campfires at the last BSMAAC meeting this month. With all the campgrounds full, people are camping alongside the road with many of them having campfires. On a recent training we had on Plaskett ridge road two abandoned campfires were found still smoldering. We also recently have been paged out to several campfires. It's pretty scary with the conditions the way they are. I refer to the whole state of California as a big tinderbox. State Parks is doing a great job patrolling around the park and citing people for illegal camping and campfires.

On September 24th and 25th the Arthritis Bike event will be coming through Big Sur with 250 bicyclists. They will be riding from Carmel and spend the night in Big Sur and then continue on to Cambria the next day, so heads up!

Unfortunately, we have had another Board member resign, Victor Pavloff has now left our Board, we will miss you! As this is an election year we may hold off filling Victor's position.

We did a second day of auto extrication this month to complete the 2-day training; it always seems we get our warmest weather on these training days when the members must wear their heavy structure gear. They cut up and demolished about 5 vehicles, we had so many to cut up we got 2 "stations" going at the same time. A great class! Thanks to DC (Deputy Chief) Matt Harris for organizing and instructing it.

Next month we will start an ongoing Wilderness medical class; this will be training to add to our existing EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) and EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) skills showing us ways to treat patients that are not close to medical care. Part of the class will take place at Big Creek.

We had one very lucky driver involved in an accident just north of Andrew Molera the other night. The driver was headed north, apparently blinded by the sun, the vehicle hit the guard rail, then "rode" on top of the guard rail a distance, then went over the guard rail on the East side of the highway to end up landing wedged into a tree right above the concrete underpass that goes under the highway. A little bit higher the driver would have dead centered the tree and a little bit lower they would have smacked right into the concrete. They managed to get out on their own and decided they did not need an ambulance! The engine crew stayed on scene for several hours waiting for the tow truck as we were concerned about a possible gas leak when the vehicle was recovered. The wrong type of tow truck was sent so the recovery got put off until the next day and while removing it did start leaking gas so we got paged out and responded to clean up the fuel leak.

Martha Karstens
Chief