

Big Sur Fire
Round Up Report
January 2018

Happy New Year everyone! We are getting our new year off to an active start with lots of training going on. The medical members who have EMT and EMR cards all need to recert by June and we spent almost the whole day Saturday with training and testing. We will be starting a "Basic Training" fire class in March. This is a new way to go about the training we are going to try. It will be an initial two month intensive training and then will be followed up with ongoing instruction in fire fighting for the rest of the year. We have 10 people from the community signed up and more importantly 4 of those are from the south coast area where we really need the help.

Burn season finally began around mid-January; I think that is the latest I have ever seen for it to begin. It is pretty rare to have the start of burn season be put off at all. I put on our burn message on the answering machine at the fire house that burn season should continue through April 30th, but don't put off your burning as you never know. Unfortunately, I think this may be happening more frequently as fire season seems to last longer than ever lately. Please remember everyone needs to get a burn permit every year.

We ended last year with a mere 164 calls, about half of our usual numbers. Of course this was due to the bridge, or lack of. Our call numbers are down and will probably stay less than usual until Mud Ck. is open, which is OK! I'm not complaining.

We were paged out to call Fire Comm in the wee hours of 1/22, 02:41 to be exact, for a tsunami watch due to the earthquake in Alaska. As I tried to go back to sleep I reviewed in my mind any homes that may be in low lying areas along our stretch of the coast. We don't have very many really, I had to try and remember what might be along the road in the area north of Esalen. Eventually I dozed off to be reawakened by another page at 04:52 with Fire Comm giving our area the all clear. I heard on the news the next morning it was a 7.9 magnitude but fortunately it was about 12 miles under the ocean so little to no damage.

As it has been pretty quiet, my article is not as long as usual! Let's hope we get some more rain, I'm looking forward to seeing the hills turn green again!

Martha Karstens
Chief