

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – October 2016

So much to report!! I'll just start with my own exciting big news that Jaci referred to last month! Almost 3 years after the fire, we have moved! Our house is finally finished! We spent a good part of the week moving the small stuff and after our Sunday training some of my Brigade members came up and helped me move the heavy stuff. I was able to schedule the TV "move" the same day with the internet and the phone going in the next day, whew! It is just wonderful finally being back home☺ Everything is in one place/location! Thank you to everyone who has been so supportive during the tough times.

It is old news now but the Soberanes fire finally came to an end some 83 days after it began on July 22 and was 100% contained. It reached the top 20 list of largest fires in California and by the time it was over it was the most expensive fire in US history.

The October rains we got were wonderful and so welcome. While they didn't put an end to fire season they sure put a big damper on it over in our area. I did attend the usual annual winter meeting in Salinas and they had no real forecast for the winter. A La Nina winter was predicted initially, moving to "neutral" in spring. It will probably be a slightly warmer winter, with equal chances of rain. All that to say, maybe we'll get some rain, maybe not. We are prepared if we do have rains, with sand and sandbags ready to go down at the Pfeiffer turn out. Remember you can sign up for notifications for emergency alerts at www.Alertmontereycounty.org

We are still trying to get a NOAA alert repeater down here. We also had a meeting with AT&T and some of the community members to talk about the continuing issues with the telephones, cell service, T1 lines etc. that go down when it rains. There should be some improvement with the work they have done recently but it won't be until March maybe when the entire project is complete to replace the reflector shield on Mt. Manuel.

It is that time of year to remember to clean your chimneys before using your stoves and fireplaces. Also for those that have them, the time change is when you should change the batteries in your smoke alarms.

The Bal Masque was a big success with a very good turnout considering it was on a Monday night with a good chance of rain. The costumes were pretty good this year, my favorite and the one who won the best overall was Tara Evens and her friend Theresa Moore from Sepastopol. They were a surfer with a missing arm and a shark that bit the arm off, just wonderful! They won a dinner at the Post Ranch Inn. Most Original went to Reed Cripe as "Rocket Man", dinner at Ventana, Funniest was Cyrus Bell as "Ace Ventura", dinner at Deetjens and lastly Scariest went to Clark Coleman as "The Fly" with dinner at the Bakery. Other than Clark, everyone else who won the contests was from Big Sur.

Thank yous to my great Judges, Butch Kronlund, Ray and Celia Sanborn and Andrew and Denise Luersen! A difficult task to choose the best out of all those costumes. It finally did start raining not long before midnight, we were very lucky with the weather. We really appreciate the support from the resorts with the donations of the dinners for the awards; everyone really looks forward to them. **And of course we couldn't do it at all without Nepenthe hosting the great event!! Huge thank yous to Nepenthe and Kirk and Holly for allowing the Fire Brigade to benefit.**

Burn season will be starting December 1st and everyone will need a burn permit, we have so many different people with permits for so many different years it has become hard to keep track of who got one and when. So we would like everyone to fill one out for every burn season, IE, the one coming up will be for the 2016/17 season. You can go online to our web site at www.bigsurfire.org and fill the permit out in a few minutes. Or you can call and leave a message and one will be mailed to you.

Our Fire Fighter 1 class will be starting in January, and while it is a big commitment, at 180 hours, we could really use more volunteers, especially on the South coast. So please consider donating some time and joining the Fire Brigade!! We had a 16 hour

Hazmat, Hazardous materials, class last month and had some potential new members complete it.

Santa Claus will hopefully make stops around the community to hand out gifts next month, I am working with "Santa's helpers" to see if we can work that out. If we are able to we will get the word out to all the parents!

Martha Karstens
Chief