

## Big Sur Fire Round Up Report – September 2018

Exciting news, we have again been accepted into the McGives, Monterey County Gives, program for this year! This year's campaign will run from November 8<sup>th</sup> until December 31. Our request, or "Big Idea" for this year was to use the funding for portable radios for Big Sur Fire. We have tried several times for FEMA grants with other agencies in Monterey County, but we're turned down. In fact, for the first time ever, we didn't get funding approval for what we call the Cal Fire rural grant, a 50/50 grant. Money is tight apparently.....

We have purchased a new rescue squad to replace our 1999 Chevy Suburban. It is a 2015 Ford F350, dually, with a "box" on the back to hold all our rescue equipment. Deputy Chief Matt Harris located it in Kansas and Jess flew back and drove it home a few weeks ago. It still needs a light bar and radio put in it as well as the new logo and numbers put on, so it will be a little while before it will be in service.

We worked the OCR, Old Coast Road, run again this year yesterday on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Usually it is stinking hot when they have their run which is just miserable when you are slogging up Serra grade. This year we were fortunate to have lovely foggy cool weather for most of the race. We had a few minor scrapes when a runner fell down, but otherwise there were no medical emergencies. The race event donates to Big Sur Fire for our help.

The same day as the run was the first day of the Wilderness EMR classes I mentioned in last month's Round Up that many members of Big Sur Fire are taking. This was a weekend class for this first one with some of the FF spending the night up at Big Creek where it was taught. There will be 4 more classes.

I had the unique experience to attend the Climate Reality Project last month in Los Angeles. This was founded by former Vice President Al Gore and is a training put on for leaders to spread the awareness about climate change. There were 2,200 people attending this one and when they finish their training there will be over 15,000 trained leaders. I was contacted and asked to be on their panel to speak in particular about the Pfeiffer fire and having my home burn down in December when we really shouldn't be having vegetation fires.

CalFire Chief Ken Pimlott, former Deputy Fire Chief Ken Thompson from New South Wales, and of course Mr. Gore were on the panel in addition to me. Chief Thompson was via the internet. We had a warm welcome from the attendees and we shared with them a number of concerns regarding the massive wildfires which we seem to be getting more and more of. California is almost in a year round fire season. It was a 45 minute session where I was also able to talk about Big Sur Fire and what a great job our volunteers do. I was told later that an additional 25,000 people watched it live and then shared it with another 700 people! Mr. Gore was very gracious and posed for pictures with all of us including Jess. And the fun part was having a black suburban with a driver waiting for us at the back stage doors to whisk us off to LAX due to a tight schedule to make our flight back home☺

The Big Sur River Run is coming up next month and we need volunteers to help!!

Martha Karstens  
Chief