

**Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade**  
**Fire Brigade News – September 2016**

Soberanes Fire continued.... We just hit the dubious distinction of being the costliest fire in United States history, over 200 million dollars as of this writing. It is working its way up the top 20 list of the largest fires and may or may not be the longest burning in California depending on when it is finally out.

We just had what should be our last community meeting unless something goes terribly wrong. The PIOs are still getting information out along what they call their "trap lines", their locations like the resorts, and we all seem to have internet access so are able to get fire info that way. If we do need another meeting the fire folks are more than willing to oblige.

Most of the activity on our side has quieted down but there is still a lot of action on the inland side of the fire. We are having a red flag warning starting today, the 21<sup>st</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>; hopefully everything will stay where it is supposed to. The concern starts to shift on what may or may not happen whenever we finally get any rains. The burned area in the Big Sur valley is not quite as bad as it was for the Basin fire so maybe that will help. I remember several mudslides, one almost going through the front door of the Big Sur Lodge and one just south of Fernwood that were both pretty deep and wide. CalTrans could have their hands full!

Pfeiffer park and Molera are still closed due to the fire. The Marathon along the Old Coast road gets cancelled, a smaller fundraiser for us. Just last week we make the decision that one of our major fundraisers, the Big Sur River Run, will need to be cancelled. We cancelled after the Basin fire too. The latest event to just get the word it will be cancelled as well is the Jade festival.

The Fire Brigade received a very generous donation shortly after the fire began from the Big Sur Marathon, this is particularly wonderful especially in light of the above cancellations! On behalf of the Fire Brigade Board and members we thank them so much for thinking of us and their generous donation!

And while, as I mentioned things are looking up for us over here, the fire is still in our response area so until it is really out anything could happen.

The forest is now closed from Nacimiento road south, and in spite of that patrols are still finding people in there trying to camp. I heard back country patrols were finding hikers in the back country too, I can't imagine who would want to go back there seeing all the smoke in the air. The past few days the smoke has been a little better for us, it is all dependent on the wind.

The management teams continue to come and go, Team 4 will probably be here through the beginning of next week then another one will come in. The two weeks they are here go by so fast. I think I will lose my PIO on Sunday, he will be heading back to Alaska soon, so I will need to get to know another one. The camp at Molera has downsized as well with a lot of the FF going over to the East side. I may have said this before but we are not out of the woods yet, no pun intended, fire season is far from over. Late word today right before the R Up deadline is that my PIO and his "shop" will be moving over to Toro, last meal at the camp will be breakfast on Monday. We also had no 10:00 Cooperators meetings this weekend, it would appear for us at least that things are coming to an end. I need to find out if USFS will be handling any smoke check calls like all the ones we got after the Basin fire.

Our big news is that our grant writer Terry Hallock was able to get a training grant and we will be offering a Fire Fighter 1 class. Normally we would do a Volunteer FF class but that cert is unfortunately going away so we now have to add an additional 60 hours to our training for the FF1 class. We are planning on starting it the first Saturday in January and it will most likely be on weekends and Saturdays through May. It is 180 hours and about 23 days total of class which when said that way doesn't sound like too much! We are excited to be able to offer this training and hope that we will have people that live in the community take the class. The Brigade relies on its volunteers!! We will continue to get the word out with confirmed dates and times.

Martha Karstens  
Chief