

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – September 2017

By the time you are reading this we should only be a couple weeks away from the Bridge opening. I was thinking while walking the trail yesterday it reminds me of what I imagine life was like way back in the old days..... except they would probably be on horseback whereas we can't do that. A more simple time I imagine as I walk along, a life without internet and cell phones. However it would also be without latte machines! As its pushing 6:00 I'm already behind for my afternoon latte, time to pick up the pace. But I run into Butch and we chat, I know that some people have said they will miss the interaction from when they "bump" into people on the trail. It still remains a challenge for us "doing business".

We just got paged for a rescue at Julia Pfeiffer Burns and some of our members responding from the north side have to hike over and hitch a ride from Post Ranch and catch up with the guys on the south side already enroute. 3 people on the beach I'm told, really... ?! It will be dark in another hour and that makes everything all the more dangerous. We have, and this is somewhat surprising to me, had only one medical since the trail was complete on the actual bypass trail. (There was one minor one during the construction). Our incident was an injured ankle about a third of the way from the top. The patient was put in our stokes litter and carried out and taken to the waiting ambulance that had come down from town.

I emailed out a report after our recent fire on Pias ridge but for those of you that didn't get it here is a recap. About 01:30 I got a call from Celia Sandborn to see if I was aware of a fire maybe in the area of Pias ridge or Rancho Rico. I looked out the window and could see a large fire, it is hard to tell at night exactly where things are. We had not yet been paged out so I called it in and started making phone calls as well. It initially looked like a structure fire, possibly the eucalyptus trees burning. We had a great and timely response from the Fire Brigade with personnel and apparatus responding from both north and south of the bridge. Quick action by first on scene FB member Luke Perkins and Rancho Rico resident Blake Forrest also was a huge help. An incident like this was something we had been preplanning for since the bridge went out. Cal Fire and USFS also responded, but we ended up cancelling the USFS engine after a short time. The fire was contained to about a half an acre and was on Pias ridge. In addition to our engines we had Tevye respond with a water tender Blaze had and Jim Gray respond with Don McQueens tender. You can never have enough water! This fire could have been devastating without the rapid initial response and good job done by the Fire Brigade. We had a fire near this area before and it was challenging.

Our Board member Lana Weeks emailed me an article she found about donating department T shirts to First Responders that had lost their homes from Hurricane Harvey in Texas. I got together a box of them and will be shipping them off. What a great idea!

Sadly, there will be no River Run again this year. The Soberanes fire caused us to have to cancel last year and with all the rain that brought down massive amounts of debris through the back of the park, our race course was just not able to have runners use it. Next year for sure!!

Some of the Fire Brigade members helped to work the OCR, Old Coast Road, Marathon/Half Marathon/10K this year. This event was also cancelled last year due to the fire but the road was in good enough shape for their runners this year. The event itself starts at 09:00 and usually ends about 3:00. By the time we start out there and get home that adds on another couple hours so it makes for a long day. We were lucky in that we made it through the event with no problems.

I can't believe it but it's time to get ready for the Bal Masque! I have the tickets ordered up so they will be ready to go on sale by October 1st. The bridge should be done by then so come on out and enjoy driving over the new bridge and help support your Fire Brigade!!!

Martha Karstens
Chief