



Over 40 Years of Fire Protection ~ Rescue ~ Emergency Medical Services

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

November 2016

Martha Karstens  
*Fire Chief*

Dear Friends,

John Handy  
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As always our lives as Fire Brigade members are busy and this year was no exception. One of our major recent accomplishments was having seven Brigade members complete a Driver operator class. With so many students we had the instructor come to Big Sur to teach the 40 hour course. This will give us a much larger pool of driver/operators to respond to incidents.

We also had an impact from the Soberanes fire this summer. It was, at over two hundred million dollars, the most expensive fire in US history. When it was declared 100% contained 83 days later it was, at 132,000 acres, also in the top twenty list of fires with the most burned acreage in California history.

Almost from the beginning the Fire Brigade was involved in the incident command. This fire was unique for us in that it started well outside our response area and weeks later reached us. We experienced road closures, power outages lots and lots of smoky days, and the impact on local businesses was felt. Also due to the fire, we had to cancel one of our major fundraisers, the Big Sur River Run.

However, we are very fortunate that the damage in our Big Sur area was limited only to several watersheds. We are hopeful our winter rains will not be too hard causing debris flows that could close the highway.

We are very excited to be offering for the first time a full Firefighter 1 class, prior classes have been a Volunteer FF class. We will begin the class in January of 2017.

Happy and safe holidays to you and your family from all of us and thank you for your continued support!

Martha Karstens  
Chief