

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade

Fire Brigade News – April 2014

We did get some rain!! Not a lot, but enough to bring out some poppies to provide some colorful relief on the black ridges. More green growth is popping up; most appear to be weeds though. The yuccas on what I call yucca corner up on the ridge are making a comeback, their little black bottoms looking like charred pineapples. Every time I drive up the ridge I see something different, I guess it must be the time of day or the light. Today the burned trees with no branches at all in a particular area seem to be standing out.

I came back from a meeting in King City over Nacimiento; while the drive is always pretty it probably isn't worth it if you are looking for wildflowers. The poppies in the fields down by Lucia are striking though.

Our VFF class is almost over, one more class then the culmination of all the training will be the live fire trailer in May and live fire wildland training in Hunter Liggett in June. They are a great group and so enthusiastic we are looking at starting up a First Responder class for them. We appear to be finishing with fifteen new people completing the class.

We have one more class to finish up recerting our current First Responders. There is always something going on. We were recently contacted by the ISO, Insurance Services Office, who does the insurance rating for fire departments. There is a huge amount of paperwork involved, they want to see maps, water sources, and even know how many gallons per minute residents pumps produce. We will see if we can get our rating lower which will help residents and businesses with getting and keeping their insurance.

The Marathon is this weekend and most of the Fire Brigade members will be out helping direct traffic, block off the side roads and providing any needed medical care. For the first time since the road went out at Rocky Creek the runners will not have to be quite so squeezed in passing through that area.

Our CERT group received a grant from the Community Foundation which will be used towards training, supplies and to upgrade the web site!

The burn season will be over at the end of the month, it is always surprising how quickly the five months goes by. (It has already been four months since the Pfeiffer Fire). There didn't appear to be as much burning this year. Remember you can always chip or haul off your debris so you don't have to stop your clearing. Remember 100' clearance from your house is the legal requirement. I just got my bill for the SRA fees and it was "only" \$117, not quite sure why. The Brigade is going to follow up and see what the status is of the fee.

Muster, Muster, Muster!!!! Don't forget!!! June 14th, noon to 3:00 PM. The Fire Brigade's 40th anniversary!!! The best ever BBQ!!! All welcome, especially "alumni" Brigade members!!

Martha Karstens
Chief