

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – January 2016

We have started off the new year with some nice rainfall and more is on the horizon, literally! The hillsides are starting to move and slides are blocking the roads already. Remember to stock up on food and anything that you can't live without for several weeks. In particular important medications. Fill up your gas/diesel tanks before you come home from town. And make sure your propane tanks are topped off. We have gone through tons of sand at our sand pile at Pfeiffer turn out with people sandbagging problem areas. Monterey County public works has been busy dropping off sand throughout the County. I drove down and checked the Big Sur river after the last good storm, 3 to 4 inches depending on where you were, but the river hadn't come up as far as I expected. Initially it was chocolate, dark, not milk, brown in color, but that has lightened up too. We shall see what the rest of the winter brings. CalTrans is out there doing a great job!

A scholarship from the Monterey County Fire Training Officers Association for 5 people was offered to all departments in Monterey County to take a swift water awareness class. The class was an online course, about 5 hours, giving us training in different water rescue scenarios. We had 5 of our Brigade members complete the class. We are still working on organizing a driver operator class but that may now wait until at least March or April so we can do the driving portion on drier land.

Also just completed was a Title 22, First Aid class with 8 Fire Brigade and CERT members finishing the 16 hour course. We are getting ready to schedule another one next month.

We are meeting next week with the EMS agency to address the new changes in medical training, from First Responder to Emergency Medical Responder. Sometimes I have to wonder why "they", whoever "they" are, make things so difficult for us to do our job. It is also that time of year for us to get going on recerting our EMRs and EMTs.

We are having the fire extinguisher company come to our Fire house at the Post Ranch on Monday February 8th from 9:00 to noon if anyone would like to bring their extinguishers by to get them filled.

Martha Karstens
Chief