

## Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – May 2015

Our annual Muster/BBQ is coming up next month!! June 13<sup>th</sup>, noon to 3:00PM at Pfeiffer State Park. The most delicious BBQ you will ever have!! Don't miss it!! We will also have H70, the CHP helicopter fly in for show and tell, CHP Officers will also be there showing children bicycle helmet safety, Natividad Medical Center will have someone demonstrating child seat safety and giving out education materials about the new trauma center and there will be an American Red Cross disaster and safety table. The new favorite we had last year, the children's house to test their "hose spraying capabilities" will also be there. We look forward to seeing all our neighbors come on down!

The Marathon was a great event this year, while I haven't attended the follow up meeting yet, in our area there was only one minor injury and a band aid issued. In spite of the windy day everything went well. We had 28 people help us out with traffic control and safety, a great turn out!

The Cal Fire inspections seem to be going well, they are almost finished with all the business's and are working on the private residences. They should finish up with the Clear ridge, Front Hill and Pius Ridge area, and then move on over to Pfeiffer Ridge. After that they will go back and start on the East side of the highway with Apple Pie and work their way south to Pfeiffer. There have been a few people that have opted out from the inspections, I'm not sure of the reasons, but for the most part everyone had their homes inspected with varying results. I think the form stating you have done all your clearance would be something your insurance company would be very interested in. The insurance companies call the Fire Brigade on a regular basis asking questions about clearance and hydrant/water access among other things. Again, we are trying to contact everyone in advance to notify you they will be in your neighborhood doing inspections.

We have begun our wildland training and have the Hunter Liggett wildland school coming up in June. This allows us to get up close with live fire, practice different ways to attack a wildland fire and gives us the operational skills to manage a fire incident. We have a couple new members going over which will be great experience and our water tender will go over all three days to provide water for all the engines.

We have had a busy month with our Hazardous Materials recert class and a CPR class in addition to our regular trainings.

We also had our annual CAPS, Community and Public Safety meeting at the firehouse this month. It was a great turn out from 13 different agencies/departments/groups. We are able to meet face to face and hear everyone's resource update for the summer. When we have our next campaign fire we will be familiar with each other and the roles we will assume.

USFS has put the level 3 fire restrictions in effect no campfires except in a designated camp site are allowed.

Memorial Day is already here with, if possible, even more people descending on Big Sur. Take a deep breath and drive safely!!

Martha Karstens  
Chief