

Fire Brigade News

It seems like the weather always comes to mind when I do this report. Right now we all pretty much agree that we could use rain, and in my opinion, lots of it! I was so looking forward to a rainy day that had been predicted, and what a bust! Maybe .200th of an inch? I had to water all my plants, a sad state of affairs in March. I guess there is still hope, maybe next week more is predicted, or April showers? We have been known to get rain in early June, so I will keep my fingers crossed. Already those "in the know" are mentioning the possibility of an early fire season. The only thing good about the lack of rain is the fuel is not as high.

I went up along with the USFS to another drill at Captain Cooper School this month. This one was for a vegetation fire and again Paula and the CC staff did an excellent job with the students. We came up with some questions, in particular where would the students go if a fire was coming up from the highway below the school. It is quite possible they may all need to shelter in place.

And that reminds me about mentioning "ALERT Monterey County." This is a way to be able to be notified of emergencies via your home or cell phone numbers. This was brought up at a meeting I attended last week where we discussed standard messages that could be left on your phone. There were ones that would be used in the event of a fire for example, notifying you of the need to evacuate. If your land line is already listed it is already in the system and will be called. You can also have your cell phone or email contacted too if you like. Just go to www.alertmontereycounty.org to register.

We had Monterey Fire Extinguisher come down to check and fill our extinguishers this month, apparently all of your extinguishers have been checked and are fine because no one came up to the firehouse to take advantage of them being there:)

Burn season is going to end April 30th!! That will be here before we know it so take advantage of the burn days now! I try to make my burn message brief but so many different things have been added on by the Air resources it makes it difficult. I try to interpret their regulations and then make them as simple as possible to understand. The latest is the marginal burn day.... This means that on a day they declare a marginal burn day you may burn as long as you are not burning more than five tons of material. Please listen to the entire message on the 800 number to hear what the status of burn zone 32 is.

I forgot to mention last month with daylight savings time going into effect, this is the time to check your batteries in any smoke or CO alarms you may have.

I just came back up the ridge from our Sunday morning fire training and was astonished by all the cars parked along the road, it is just like a Labor Day weekend! It would seem that a whole lot of people thought a trip to Big Sur would be a good thing to do this weekend. The Pine ridge trail must be like a freeway.

Please mark your calendars!!! Our muster/BBQ this year will be on **June 8th**! We have moved it to June to be able to have USFS and Cal Fire come down and participate in our muster games. Next year will be a big one, our 40th anniversary.

Martha Karstens
Chief