

Fire Brigade News
April 2013

By the time you are reading this burn season will probably be over or close to being over if the Round Up goes out early. Not as many people burned this season, I hope that means that less clearing was needed. I ended up issuing 107 burn permits for our first season that required them. We'll see what any requirements may be needed for the next burn season. Hopefully nothing more complicated to figure out! Of course you can still trim and compost, chip or haul away the clippings/trimmings.

Last week I attended a meeting we have each year, the annual fire cooperators meeting. This year it was in King City. I decided to drive over Nacimiento to get there. The fields down by Harlan's were full of poppies, I'm sure that when the sun hits them and wakes them up they are stunning! At the early hour I was driving by, 07:15, they were still snoozing. The flowers in Hunter Liggett were pretty, not spectacular, perhaps out by the Indians they were but I had to be in King City at 09:00, so no time for sightseeing. The grass was still green over there like us, but turning quickly with the nasty winds we had, and now some hot weather predicted. This was the first time I had been to the USFS new office, they have a full size (plastic) pack mule in the front office all set up with packs like it was ready to hit the trail, very cool!

At the meeting we review everyone's resource availability for the season and discussed predictions of what this year's fire season may be. It is not looking good, already there are areas that have dried out and turned brown and the rivers and reservoirs are low. So an early start to the fire season was the general consensus.

We spent all day Sunday doing a RIC/IRIC class. This stands for Rapid Intervention Crew or Initial Rapid Intervention crew. The training prepares you for procedures to use if we have a firefighter down or trapped during a structure fire or anywhere really. Everyone has on their structure gear and SCBAs and we simulate various rescues. It turned out to be one of our hotter days of course! At least the second half of our training was out at the Navy base and it was a little more bearable out there. Everyone did a great job and we appreciate Parks allowing us to train out there. Next month, May, we change over our training from structure and start in with wildland training.

We were the lucky recipients of a grant from the Monterey Peninsula Foundation which we used towards Ann Simmons facilitating the community meeting we had last year and updating our Strategic Plan. We had some funds left over and received permission to purchase 2 new AED, defib, units that replaced our older units which could not be updated, and some other things for our firehouse. Very much appreciated! Remember our annual Muster/BBQ will be on June 8th this year!!

Martha Karstens
Chief