

Fire Brigade News

June has been a hopping little month so far, fires, rescues, accidents, medicals, we have had them all! They have been coming 3 a day for some unknown reason. We are 30 calls ahead of last year right now. We also have two planning meetings this month, one we had today and one next week I will report on in the next Round Up as it is happening after the deadline.

The meeting today, the 19th was to explore Survivability, Sustainability and Insurability of the Fire Brigade and the Big Sur community. We had our friend and excellent facilitator, Ann Simmons, come in to run the meeting. It was a pretty good turn out with representation from businesses and road and water companies from a wide area. Also present were Cal Fire, USFS and two people with insurance knowledge to answer questions.

We are finding that when it comes time to renew home insurance, residents are not able to renew their policies. Insurance companies, we were told, are coming down to inspect to see if homes have their clearance done according to the Cal Fire 4291 regulations. There is a web site you can go to and find good information, www.readyforwildfire.org. We also discussed the potential needs of the Fire Brigade for the future, one being replacement of our 4000 gallon tender. The Brigade is in the process of reviewing our strategic plan, which we first wrote ten years ago. Funding in the future was a topic as well as how the community perceived the %service+was from the Brigade. All and all a good meeting! (The meeting next week will be about evacuations in the event of another large fire). Thank you so much to the Big Sur Lodge for donating the conference room and for providing the beverages.

We spent one day over at Hunter Liggett doing wildland fire training, it was not too terribly hot over there, only 90 by the end of the day. All three of our engines and most of our members were able to attend. Everyone did a great job, basically putting out all the fires and learning or improving their skills. You can check out some of the pics from the training on our web site at www.bigsurfire.org. We are planning on one more day over there on the 29th.

Sheriff Miller said he would try to find someone to come down to be a Resident deputy for the summer but we need housing for the person. So if anyone knows of a place to stay short term give me a call at the FB phone.

We just had yet another rescue, this one down at Jade Cove, last night, Brigade members and SO Rescue were on scene for over 4 hours before the most severely injured patient was brought up and helicoptered out.

4th of July is coming up, please be fire safe! No fireworks are allowed in Monterey County!!

Martha Karstens
Chief