

**Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade
Fire Brigade News – October 2017**

Well the big news, old news by now, is of course the opening of the bridge! It was a great ceremony, good speeches (food and music) and lots of congratulations to Cal Trans and Golden State Bridge, well deserved, for a job well done in an incredibly short amount of time. We got to be the first to go across in “the parade” in our engine, waving to all! Life is now somewhat back to normal as far as Brigade members being able to respond easily to incidents and the calls have started! Not long after the bridge opened we started getting calls and they haven’t stopped! 8 calls in as many days including a veg fire in Partington Canyon. The following is the email that I sent out after the one fire incident we had.....

“Shortly after 09:00 this morning the Fire Brigade was paged out for a vegetation fire in Partington Cove. State Parks maintenance had seen it and reported it. They started to fight the fire with their hand tools the best they could. Brigade Captain Jon Knight was on scene very quickly with one more FF and gave an excellent size up, about a 100 x 100’ area burning on the East side of the highway about a 1/4 mile up the canyon. All the homes up on Partington were in the cross hairs once again. We started SO in case any evacuations were needed.

This was again an example of the initial response by the Fire Brigade making a difference! We had an excellent response, with over a dozen Brigade members and 3 engines on scene and 2 water tenders cancelled enroute. USFS E17 and B12 also arrived on scene and several hours later we turned the fire area over to them. They were going to stay in the area until this evening and then come back again tomorrow to make sure there were no flare ups.

*This fire was started by an illegal campfire, 2 nights ago we were paged out for 2 other campfires, one of which was cited. It is unbelievable to me why with half the state on fire anyone would think it was a good idea to have any fire.
A good job well done by all!!”*

Back to the bridge... I want to make sure the Fire Brigade members receive the acknowledgement they really deserve for all their efforts to overcome the challenges and continue to provide emergency response and care throughout the 8 months the highway was closed. We were there for you!

Thank you so much to Heather Lanier for all her organizing for the bridge party and to her and Carissa Chappellet for all their help during the bridge incident making sure we had access through Rancho Rico for emergencies.

A reminder that this is the time of year again when we change our clocks to also check/change the batteries in any smoke/fire alarms you may have!

We are fortunate to be allowed to again participate in the McGives grant. If you would like to make your donation dollars stretch a little further you can donate through McGives starting November 1.

On the 21st we had our “Fire and Rain” event at the Packard Ranch to honor our Fire Brigade members. It was just delightful with such a great turn out from the community. This really warms our hearts knowing we have your continued support! The day was picture perfect, and all 100 tickets were sold out! The food that Chef Paul Corsentino from Ventana provided was just delicious as was, I am told, the wine from McIntyre Vineyards. (Wearing our new uniforms we never did get a sample☺ it was unfortunate that we had a medical call during the event and three of our fire fighters had to leave and miss most of it. Chief Emeritus Frank Pinney and former fire fighter and Board member John Handy were the Master of Ceremonies. We had very nice speeches from Congressman Jimmy Panetta and Supervisor Mary Adams. Rayner Marx sang a song he had written for the Brigade members. All the fire fighters were recognized for their years of service and handed out certificates from Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom. We announced our transition to our new name, “Big Sur Fire” and showed off our new uniforms and uniform patch to the community. As I mentioned in the speech I gave, the horses in our logo that have been pulling that fire wagon for the last 43 years were getting put out to pasture. Time for a change.....

Forty-three years of acknowledging past and present volunteers and their dedication and commitment to the community. Huge thank yous for all the work the committee did who put this on, led by Board member Lana Weeks, Matt Harris for organizing the uniforms, Nadine Clark and her crew of servers, our volunteer photographer Dan Gearhart, and many others. It really was a special day!!

We will be having Monterey Fire Extinguisher come down on November 7th to fill our fire extinguishers at our Station #1 at the Post Ranch 09:00 to noon. If you have any extinguishers that need checking or filling they will be happy to look at them for a nominal fee.

Martha Karstens
Chief