

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – September 2015

And yet another fire, this one at Andrew Molera. This one started about 9:30 in the evening, numerous callers always mean it's the real thing. While it was windy out there it wasn't howling which was lucky. State Parks were working on the evacuation of all the campers, we also had CHP and SO helping. A lot of our apparatus was initially along the highway so we had CHP slowing down the traffic from both directions. We had SO just in case for home evacuations. Fortunately the fire was kept from crossing the river and heading up to Clear ridge!! The Fire Brigade was first on scene, with USFS and Cal Fire shortly thereafter. This is actually in Cal Fires response area so they either take and/or take over the incident command. We even had a Cal Fire bull dozer come down and make a fire line around part of the fire. No one is taking any chances with fire, full wildland responses are started from both Cal Fire and USFS, they can always be cancelled. The Molera fire ended up being 2.7 acres. Luckily the Captain Cooper cabin did not burn!

Resources can be short sometimes with all the other fires going on and there are times that your Fire Brigade is the only agency here to respond. Resources were tapped out just recently with two fires breaking out within 20 minutes of each other out in Carmel Valley. Both fires quickly spread, by late that evening the one by Laureles grade road and highway 68 was under control but the one in Cachagua was still out of control with at last count 1,100 acres burned and a number of structures burned. Very scary and sad, it is a tinderbox out there as well as here. There is no reason you can't continue to keep up your clearing, making sure any work you do with equipment is done in the early morning hours preferably on a cool day.

We just got a request for a water tender for support for the Cachagua fire and Jess and Trey are on their way out to Carmel Valley to work a shift. (We still have 2 tenders available for our use). Jess went out a second day and was again stationed at the heli spot.

We have the marathon/half marathon on the Old Coast Road, (OCR), coming up this Saturday. We provide medical care and communications for them. It looks like it is going to be a cool day this time.

We made it through Best Buddies without any incidents from the bike race. We did however have a rescue during the race requiring us to shut down one lane of traffic. I had to repeat numerous times to the bicyclists that the traffic control applied to them too!

Our First Responder class has only one day left before it is completed and we still have eight people that should be able to complete it. We hope that those class members that are not yet Brigade members will be able to join us!

We are getting geared up for the apparently very good chance we will be having a huge El Nino event. I am going to a 4 hour meeting in town and we will host a local meeting down here in October for the agencies who would be involved if anything happens down here that could affect us.

I am already ordering up the tickets for our annual Halloween party/Bal Masque, I can't believe it is that time of year already. This year it will be a Saturday night so get your tickets early!!

Martha Karstens
Chief

Nepenthe's Bal Masque!!
Saturday October 31st 6:00 PM to midnight
Music, Ambis, costume prizes!!
Benefits your Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade
Tickets \$35 adult \$12 child, 12 and under...