

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade

Round – Up Report

August 2014

Our new water tender has arrived!! Jess brought it home and it is quite stunning! We still need to finish putting the numbers and equipment on it, do some training and then it will be ready to go. As we are deep into fire season more water is always a good thing. We have not been without a large tender during this time, Jim Hill has had his tender available for us to use anytime we need it.

We did just have a vegetation fire last week down at Morning Glory. USFS units, Cal Fire and our Fire Brigade apparatus all responded along with personnel. Jim brought his tender down for the fire which was a big help. We can park the unit close to a fire and the engines can fill up off of it.

There will be areas where we will not take the new tender due to the size, but we have our smaller one for situations like that. All very exciting having the new tender and it was made possible due to all of your help and donations!

We had a medical call the other day and there was quite a bit of confusion due to the address. We had noticed on our address list that several homeowners down here have the same address. Even though one would be on Clear Ridge for example and the other on Pfeiffer, my concern was that there would be confusion with duplicate addresses. There is one address that actually three different residents have that is the same. In town I guess you could have 123 Maple St. or 123 John St. but for people down here to have 123 Pfeiffer or 123 Clear Ridge is more confusing. Some people refer to Clear Ridge as Pfeiffer and vice versa. When I noticed this I did contact the homeowners to make sure they were aware of it and suggest that they may want to change their address.

On this particular call there was confusion trying to find the right house with emergency vehicles driving in several different areas trying to locate the home. Our dispatch had their computer system show one location which while technically correct with the same number, was not where the patient was located. Eventually we did find the correct location and fortunately the patient was OK. Just a heads up to those of you who share multiple addresses. And speaking of addresses, we do encourage you to not only have them but to post them front and center! We can't always rely on local knowledge to find you☺ I had a delivery truck stop me once on Pfeiffer and ask if everyone up there was in the witness protection program with the lack of identifying names and numbers.

I just have to say something about the parking, or lack of, situation at the Post Office. I have had several people contact me regarding this issue. Here are my observations; It is really a good study of people. The other day 3 people were lined up waiting to get out on the road and apparently the small (local) pick up could just not wait and proceeded to do about a 5 point turn into the handicapped spot so he could then hurry out on the highway ahead of the others waiting. Today while I was being polite waiting (and waiting) for a mobile home to back out of the handicapped spot, cars in front and behind me appeared to have no patience and were cutting in and around me and the motor home. Why there are not accidents every day there is a mystery to me. There appears to be no consideration, common sense, rarely any courtesy, and pretty much an utter disregard for anyone else when it comes to claiming a parking place there. And then there are the people who continue to park in the handicapped spot, some locals, who clearly have no disability, pretty rude..... I have been planning my trips to the PO for the earlier or later hours for the mail to avoid the madness, I know Andrew is spending some of his time chasing cars and delivery trucks away. There have been two accidents inside the parking lot to my knowledge. People, again including locals, ignore the time limit and now that school is back in session the bus stopping there to unload kids not only adds to the congestion but doesn't seem very safe. I just saw a new one yesterday that I had not seen before!! A delivery truck couldn't get into the parking lot because another delivery truck was parked in the handicapped spot sticking way out, so he parked right in the middle of the highway to off load his boxes. Does he not know how fast cars come off the hill around the corner heading north? Crazy!! All that to say, it isn't a matter of if, but when we have a serious accident there, we will quite possibly have to set up traffic control in the highway which is always dangerous for us, due to the

lack of any place for our emergency apparatus to park. While I know it is great for all the business's here, I really hope that after Labor Day we can look forward to some relief from all the multitudes that have descended on us.

Our call response is up with us getting multiple calls some days, with as many as 6 on one day last week. While that is not a record, I think that would be 7 or 8, it is a lot of running up and down the coast from one incident to another.

We are going into what typically is our warmest time of year, as if it weren't already dry enough, it will get dryer, we will be one big tinderbox. Wouldn't an early winter be lovely....

Martha Karstens
Chief