

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Round Up Report – December 2014

Has everyone had enough rain??!! While I love the rain and we need every drop perhaps it could have been a little more spread out. So much rain, I had over 9 inches over the one big storm. Several roads in different enclaves took a hit and lost chunks of land, with some still having issues which will be costly to repair. On Pfeiffer Ridge the hills are still so bare there is a lot of run off heading right down to Sycamore canyon. Sycamore Canyon road is closed to the public at this time probably through Christmas. I had to go down there last night for an alarm on Front Hill and could see all the piles of dirt alongside the road.

We had to call for a second load of sand for sand bagging; I don't remember doing that before. We have plenty of sandbags at the firehouse and have resupplied the ones at the sand pile in the Pfeiffer turnout twice already. So far the river has not been a problem but with the land becoming saturated it could become one. The Fire Brigade is doing its best to keep up with the status of private roads so we will know what size emergency apparatus will be able to get through if any.

I have heard the rumor that there may now be an El Nino pattern but who knows, this could all dry up in January. In an effort to be able to contact people in the case of an emergency and/or road closures in the Sycamore canyon area CERT is sending out letters asking for contact information and any updated address's you may have. You can email any information to bigsurcert@gmail.com . If you let us know what road you live on we will update our Fire Brigade maps. This information will be kept confidential and only used in case of emergencies.

People are slowing starting to burn, it has been pretty wet to do much, so just a reminder you do need a new updated burn permit for the 2014-2015 burn season, these can be found and filled out online on our web site at www.bigsurfire.org or call 667-2113 to leave a message if you would like to have one mailed to you.

We were able to have our annual dinner this year, as it wasn't possible last year due to the fire. As usual Nepenthe outdid themselves with a delicious dinner and yummy desserts for all. We also handed out the annual awards that night. Everyone was acknowledged for a year full of great participation with many exciting training opportunities. Hubbs Hubback received a special cup in recognition for all his years as engineer on E7831. Our annual awards were given to Christopher Newell for Rookie of the Year; Rayner Marx for Volunteer of the Year and Steve Graham received the special Chiefs award. We usually acknowledge one engine company but this year all were equally acknowledged for their participation during the Pfeiffer fire. Thank you so much to Nepenthe and Kirk and Holly for hosting our dinner!!

It has now been a year since the Pfeiffer fire started; I know for me personally, getting past the anniversary of it and through this year will be helpful. Many times throughout the year I would think back and say this time last year life was normal. I know next year, while it will still be busy with rebuilding, has got to be better. I think for many, 2014 has been a whirlwind crazy year, and I for one, am ready to move on.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy holiday season from all of us at the Fire Brigade.

Martha Karstens
Chief