

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade

Fire Brigade News – May 2014

Our Volunteer Firefighter class has finished and we had 13 people complete it! We had the North Tree Fire live fire trailer as the big finish!! We met at the State park and spent all day training inside the trailer. There are different areas including an upstairs “bedroom” where the FF have to go put out different kinds of fires. The control room is where the computer is located that generates the fires where ever the operator wants them. It is just like a crazy wizard of Oz with the operator shooting flames out or making a back draft go across the ceiling. It was a great day of training for all the new FF as well as the “old” ones. We have the ability to try different nozzle patterns to see what affect they have on fire in a controlled environment. It is also one of the few times we are actually inside a “structure” that is “burning”. The new FF can experience what it feels like to have the extreme heat wearing 60 pounds of protective gear and not being able to see anything. Everyone did such a great job!! Thank you to the Park for waiving our fees! Please visit our web site at www.bigsurfire.org and look at the photo section for pics of the training. Thanks to Dan Gearhart for taking and posting them!!

The next part of some continuing training will be wildland school over at Hunter Liggett. Our original dates of early June did not work due to military maneuvers, but we may still have the opportunity to go over near the end of the month.

I was reminded about a meeting I attended regarding Pfeiffer beach. Part of the discussion was in regard to parking. Apparently people, including locals, do not want to pay the fee to park in the parking lot so they try and park up the road just before you get to the parking lot. This has become so congested that it would become difficult if not impossible to have emergency vehicles pass by. In addition, apparently locals want the gate left open so they can drive down to the beach after hours. Having this gate open after hours then also provides an open invitation for anyone to go down and camp on the beach and have campfires. Both these issues are a concern for the Fire Brigade.

After my journey home from King City last month over Nacimiento and noting the lack of wildflowers, Mother Nature has made a liar out of me and at least on our side of the coast has come up with a spectacular display of lupines! Beautiful purple carpets spilling down the mountainsides! I don't remember seeing all of them on the slopes by the El Sur ranch before, just beautiful! We even have more poppies up on Pfeiffer with a few lupine.

We are almost done with our mapping of our response area. It will all be on the computer and we will then be able to add/change homes, water sources etc. The maps will go in our run books which are in our apparatus. We did do a more generic version that was used for the Pfeiffer fire and was very helpful. We are careful to not hand out anything like phone numbers or private information. You may be contacted to provide more information about water supplies or hydrants on your property.

This month we had two of our Brigade members complete a two week training, Driver Operator 1A and 1B. Each segment was a full week of driving and pumping operations with engines. The class was held over in Salinas so this is real dedication driving back and forth each day! They will be able to get their license to drive our large engine and as soon as they get more practical drive time behind the wheel they should be ready to start responding to calls. Congratulations to Chris Bangham and Rayner Marx!

The Fire Brigade is looking for an Assistant administrator; this is part time work, 2 to 3 days a week. Please call the FB at 667-2113 or email at Bigsurfire@gmail.com if you are interested in the position.

We are still hoping to have our new water tender in time for our 40th anniversary muster/BBQ. I hope to see everyone from the community there!

Martha Karstens
Chief