



Contact: Chief Matt Harris, 831.869.6547 or email mharris@bigsurfire.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 19, 2019

Big Sur Fire is awarded \$55,000 as Cal Fire awards \$43 million to fund 66 local fire prevention projects across the state

Big Sur, CA – Big Sur Fire (BSF) announces an award of \$55,000 for a fire prevention grant which provides for pre-attack planning for wildfires.

As part of California's ongoing efforts to prevent a catastrophic fire such as the Camp Fire, Cal Fire announced more than \$43 million will be awarded to fund 66 local fire prevention projects across the state.

According to Cal Fire, the Fire Prevention Grants will enable local organizations, like fire safe councils, to implement activities that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential to communities. Funded activities include fuel reduction, wildfire planning, and fire prevention education.

Big Sur Fire's project will reduce the total amount of wildfire and Greenhouse Gas emissions by enhancing the quality of mapping data for the southern portion of the Big Sur Community At-Risk, allowing initial attack personnel quicker access to critical information and streamlining decision making, which in turn creates an environment where wildfires can be controlled more quickly and efficiently and reducing the potential amount of acreage burned. Averaging the size of the Soberanes Fire and the Basin Fire, there is a probability that should a fire start and spread due to lack of the information that would be provided by accurate mapping, that the fire would spread to a size of approximately 47,472 acres.

"We are so fortunate to have the support from CalFire for this project. Big Sur Fire will produce the most up to date and detailed maps of our entire response area using state of the art technology to make our community and emergency responders safe should a fire or other disaster occur," Big Sur Fire Chief Matt Harris said.

The mission of the Big Sur Fire is to provide dependable fire protection and emergency services for Big Sur with teamwork, respect and integrity. Big Sur Fire was formed in 1974 to provide structure fire protection for the residents and businesses in the Big Sur

area. BSF now provides both structure and wildland fire protection, along with rescue and emergency medical response for the Big Sur community and its over 5 million annual visitors. BSF remains an all-volunteer company, with about 25 members, responding to an area which covers almost 60 miles of coastline along Highway One.

###