

## Big Sur Fire Round Up Report – February 2018

Yes, we do respond to get cats out of trees..... Just like you always hear and sometimes joke about, FF's do this on occasion and this wasn't the first time. I forgot to write about this for last month's article. We got a duty officer page to call dispatch so I called in and sure enough the 911 call had come in for help getting a neighbor's cat out of a tree. I called the neighbor and got the particulars and had the usual discussion about never seeing a cat skeleton up a tree. She had other concerns about the cat and why it may be reluctant to come down on its own. So rather than putting out a page for the "incident" I was pretty easily able to locate 2 FF's nearby. Jon Knight and Fabian Perez saved the day! They donned their structure jackets, the cat may scratch after all, and helmets and deployed the ladder the neighbor had handy and mounted a successful feline rescue! All's well that ends well!

We got a phone call from State Parks last month letting us know that a tourist had, while getting something out of his pocket, dropped his cell phone over the side of the cliff at JP Burns. They wanted to know if the rescue team would be interested in coming down to try and locate the phone and get a little training done at the same time. So the next day Trey Kropp and Jon Knight went down to the area along with the same ranger. They set up a system and pretty quickly were lucky in finding the wallet right where it was dropped! We were grateful the person didn't try to retrieve it on his own and then we would have had to rescue him! The fellow was there and very appreciative of our efforts. Another all's well that ends well!

And speaking of JPB, we had a late evening rescue there also last month. We were paged out around 10:30 PM for people who had climbed down to the beach and couldn't get back up. The Sheriff's rescue team also responded along with AMR and the people were safely brought back to the top several hours later. We had a ranger on hand there also and my understanding was they did get a citation.

The Pfeiffer Canyon bridge project has been completed and we have our Pfeiffer turn out back to ourselves. It looks so nice all tidied up, they did a great job, almost a year to the day the bridge closed. We'll see if we end up moving our sand bag pile back there, we may just leave it where it is at the Coastlands turnout for the rest of the winter.

Please remember to check the burn status before burning. I have had several people leave messages they are burning on a no burn day. Also please remember you do need a burn permit! This season is the longest time I remember for the start of burn season. Not to mention the longest period of no burning, I think a three week period at least, in the middle of the season. I encourage everyone to burn while they can, unless we get some serious rain I can almost guarantee burn season will end early.

We have a new member on our Big Sur Fire Board; FF Jim Betts was voted in last week to fill the vacancy left by John Handy. Welcome Jim!

As I write there appear to be showers out to sea and I hear we have a chance of snowfall in the lower elevations. Wouldn't that be great! (the next day) And we did get some showers, I got .15 so far and Mt. Manuel had snow on it down to about the 1100 foot level. Brrrrr!!

Martha Karstens  
Chief