

## Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – April 2015

Thank you to our new Sheriff! We now have a resident Deputy with a three to five year commitment to Big Sur!! Jesse Villasenor was chosen to be our resident Deputy. He is very familiar with Big Sur and is a member of the Sheriff's rescue team which is a bonus. He was introduced at the last BSMACC meeting. I hope you will all welcome him if you see him. One of the goals is for him to get even more area familiarity so in an emergency he will know exactly how to find your home to help you. Some of us have already expressed our concerns to him regarding things like campfires along the road so he will be looking out for them.

Home addresses and road names were also brought up at the BSMACC meeting. The County has given names to several roads that have been known for years by everyone as something else causing confusion. House numbers also are apparently not liked and/or wanted by some people to have in their driveways. It makes it really difficult on a dark foggy night to figure out how to locate your home in an emergency, all dirt roads start to look alike. I know I was asked once by a delivery man if there were people in the witness protection program on Pfeiffer due to the lack of addresses.

I was contacted by a concerned resident and she thought it worthwhile to mention her concerns about people forgetting to turn off their appliances when you leave home for the day. A good safety tip!!

Nepenthe had their employees take CPR training recently. There were two classes that were done at the Firehouse. This is great training to take especially for anyone in the restaurant business!

More word on the Cal Fire inspections... USFS will be having someone go with them as well which is great! In answer to some questions we have received, no, you do not have to have them on your property, but why wouldn't you? They are not here to look at anything other than your fire clearance. This last "winter" was one of the driest and hottest on record and we are going into a 4<sup>th</sup> year of drought. I would hope everyone would do everything possible to make your home more fire safe for you and the firefighters who may be coming to help you.

Burn season ended early as we thought it might. With very short notice we got the word it had ended and tried to get it out as quickly as possible. There was over 4 ½ months to get your burning done. Now of course it is cold, foggy and drizzling, perfect burning weather for burning. Such is life.

We finished up with our structure fire training on Sunday; doing a final "Company Ops" drill out at the Navy base putting all our skills together. We "rescued" a down FF, had our new large water tender available for refilling the engines and had two of our engines involved. Now it is on to wildland training, that season really didn't seem to end.

We have the Marathon coming up this weekend; however by the time you read this it will be over. It looks like it will be good weather for it. Lots of preplanning and meetings to attend prior to the race!

Martha Karstens  
Chief