

## Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade Fire Brigade News – March 2017

A month later and we are still very much involved with the Pfeiffer Canyon Bridge and all the challenges it has presented everyone in the community. A Unified Command was established with the Fire Brigade, State Parks and OES and we are meeting every Monday afternoon. We had a very successful helicopter resupply mission organized by Gerry Malais OES manager with lots of help from Butch and Patte Kronlund who spent hours making lists and spreadsheets for everyone's groceries and supplies. They loaded up and flew out of the baseball field at the State Park and landed at the Post ranch to off load the supplies including pods of diesel fuel. The Fire Brigade had members helping and providing radio communications letting the people on the receiving end know what was coming.

Since the road opened to residents on the south end we have had several days of resupply of much needed propane. The residents have been able to come and go with restrictions for a few weeks. Nacimiento is now open and tourists can come in and go as far as Gorda.

Work will be starting soon on Paul's slide with a very limited in and out schedule for residents. Gates were put up at Paul's slide and at Mud CK. to prevent people from going through and to lock up their equipment at night.

The trail around the bridge was flagged and work was finally started on 3/9. As of today, 3/23 is it almost complete, maybe one more days' worth of work will get it there. Unfortunately we now have rain and that may hold up the progress. That this trail is being completed so far ahead of schedule is incredible, and this is due to the locals who are volunteering their time and amazing energy to make it happen! According to Cal Trans there will be no bridge, vehicle or pedestrian, bypass, so this trail will be our means of getting back and forth from either side for the next 6 months.

Thank you so much to all the trail volunteer workers and especially Carissa Chappellet and Heather Lanier for their tireless work scheduling the volunteers, bringing them lunches and even working the trails! Tori, Hal, Jon and I have rotated the duty to make sure someone is down at the park at 07:00 each day to collect paper work and swear the workers in.

We are going to have a meeting for the emergency services on how to best plan for the upcoming summer and work around the bridge problem.

We have been able to keep our FF 1 class going so far, we are able to let the FF on the south side walk through to get to class. It is still a challenge as most of our equipment is on the south side. We do have the live fire trailer training scheduled for next month which is always exciting!

AMR is now changing shifts every two days for the most part back to normal. They are still flying the crews back and forth for their shift change.

We did have 2 calls back to back the other day, the first one, a medical was able to be driven out and the second one, a fire, was very fortunately extinguished right away.

We do have the Marathon coming up, another logistic to figure out, where to turn around the busses and get our usual Brigade members over from the south side to help out. It was bad enough driving to volunteer at 04:00, getting up a half hour earlier to walk over, well, we'll see.....

After giving it much thought we have decided to cancel the Muster for this June. We won't know if the park is available and it just doesn't feel right to have it for only half the community. We will reschedule and have one after the bridge is open so everyone can join in!

Now that it is daylight savings time, a reminder for everyone to change the batteries in your smoke alarms!

Lastly, take some time to look at the hillsides with the amazing display of poppies, at least that is what I think they are, which have come out after the fire, just gorgeous!!

Martha Karstens  
Chief