

Fire Brigade News

We are finally getting a good late season soaking, pushing 3 inches of rain in the last 2 days... While nowhere near our usual rainfall, it just might let burn season continue until the date it usually ends, on April 30th. But, it may not, I was at the annual pre-season Chiefs meeting the other day and the prediction was for a dry, early and potentially severe fire season, so burn season may still get cut off sooner, get your burning done now, don't put it off! And speaking of... how is everyone doing with their fire clearing? Don't wait until the fire is heading towards your home! Remember 100' clearance is the law.

We continue to be busy, maybe we will get all our big incidents over with early on and have a quiet summer, one can only hope. We had yet another structure fire, this one at one of the units at MAF, again we requested mutual aid and had two engines come down from town to help. This is now four structure fires in as many months, unheard of for us. We were requested twice for mutual aid to Mid Coast this month and our engine responded both times. Once for the structure fire up Garrapatos and once for a veg fire under Bixby Bridge. Kind of a strange place, the north/west side of the bridge, almost underneath it. We got the page at about 11:30 at night, maybe someone watching the sunset threw their cigarette over..... The investigator has checked out the area where the fire was and we'll see what the findings are. It is nice to be able to return the favor and help out other agencies at their fires.

We also had what was paged out as a vehicle accident, upon arrival the one person involved was acting very strangely, long story short, he went a little crazy and picked up one of our engine chocks and started swinging it at our Brigade members on scene. He hit two of them, only minor injuries to one, and also hit our engine, CHP finally arrived on scene and tased him about 3 times before he was subdued. Fortunately incidents like this don't happen frequently but we always need to be careful. (It was later determined he was on meth).

In addition, while we always have rescues at Julia Pfeiffer Burns, we had one this month that was a little unusual in that it was actually 2 separate incidents with a total of 4 people at the same time. State Parks responded to a report of 2 people on the beach, (off limits) and right about the time they were making contact a female fell down the cliff on the south side of the camping area down there, (she was also in an area off limits). Another long story short, between the Brigade, AMR, CHP helo H70, St. Parks and the SO rescue team, everyone made it up safely, the one injured female was flown out, tickets were issued and we got home about 6 hours later. I did get to watch one spectacular full moon come up over the hills while we were on scene.

Brigade members are also quite busy, in addition to our regular fire training, we are hopefully finishing up recerting our EMT and FR skills to renew our cards this month.

We have had another time change and along with that is the recommendation to check your batteries in any smoke/fire or carbon monoxide alarms you might have.

We have been attending Marathon meetings, remember the race will be on April 29th this year and they will be running the full course from Big Sur to Carmel. It will be a little different this year (and next) with the one lane road at Rocky Ck. There is only room for either runners or vehicles, not both, so one very early caravan will head north right after the start and get through before the first runners get there. Then the next SB caravan will not go through until all the runners have passed through the one lane.

The Fire Brigade is still looking for a secretary to take minutes, we had one person that was great but unfortunately something came up that he could not continue.

Remember this time last year we had a very wet winter and one lane of our road was dropping into the ocean!!!

Martha Karstens
Chief