

## Big Sur Fire Round Up Report – November 2018

Here we are yet again watching the devastation of out of control wildland fires on the news. And unbelievably more deaths than ever. It seems like everyone knows someone impacted by these fires. Again the fires are jumping over 6 lane freeways! When you see that happening a little one lane road is little comfort as a fire break. But that is where we live and what we have to deal with. Recently I updated all my photos of the rooms in my house to have "just in case". Burn season will start at some point when we get enough rain and that is the time for everyone who can to continue on with their clearing.

We recently had 2 vegetation fires, the first one in Coastlands and then one across from Gorda Mountain. This report is what I had the CC and CPOA send out:

*"An incredible job last night by Big Sur Fire! We were paged out at 9:17 PM for a vegetation fire, that then was maybe a vehicle fire, then possibly a structure fire in the area of Coastlands. Upon arrival there was a vehicle fully engulfed on the upper Coastlands road and the fire had spread into the vegetation and was threatening the two structures closet to the vehicle. Also, a concern was the rolling flaming debris falling down to the lower Coastlands road near another structure. Big Sur Fire responded with 3 engines, 2 water tenders, a command vehicle, several POVs and 17 personnel. We were able to get the fire knocked down and alleviate the further threat to Coastlands and the Post Ranch. We were very fortunate not to have the winds we had been experiencing the previous evenings. We were of course concerned it could jump the road and head up to Ventana and the Coast Ridge. Highway One was shut down for about an hour. Cal Fire arrived on scene with 3 engines, a BC and two Gabilan crews. They eventually took over the incident and released us, staying on scene over night with 2 engines. USFS responded initially with 2 patrols and are taking over this morning. Other agencies responding and who were a big help were State Parks, SO, CHP and AMR. The fire looked to be about a half-acre last night with the vehicle a total loss."*

This next report was what I sent again to the CC and CPOA for the Gorda fire:

*"Big Sur Fire responded to a vegetation fire again tonight. We were paged out at 6:04 PM to multiple reports of Gorda mountain on fire. Big Sur Fire responded again with 3 engines, a patrol, 2 water tenders a command vehicle and approximately 12 personnel. Cal Fire and USFS responded as well. A short time later I got a phone call from Treebones saying the fire was actually on the West side of Highway one and then we had a Big Sur Fire member arrive on scene POV. His initial size up was about a 50' by 100' area and the locals had already extinguished the flames. We continued the 2 engines and the patrol and while I write they are on scene with USFS mopping up."*

Many events going on in October! We had our Big Sur River Run and if we'd just had more runners everything would have been a resounding success. Gone are the days when we had 1,000 runners, we would be happy to have 500, unfortunately we only had 381 register. But the runners who were there had a great time! Thank you to all the volunteers who helped and the businesses who supported the run! We just had our River Run committee meeting today, the 17<sup>th</sup>, and agreed to again have our run next year, so mark your calendars, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2019!

Our Bal Masque was on a Wednesday night this year and for a weekday night we had a lot of people attend! The Captain Cooper kids did another great job with making their posters, I think the theme this year was pumpkins.... And thank you to Janet Sommerville for going around the community to put them up. I think I have never so many pirate costumes, worn by both men and women. My Judges, Ray Sanborn, Butch Kronlund, Carol Shadwell and Greg Hawthorne did a great job deliberating who should be the winners. Thank you for their efforts!! While there were a number of costumes there didn't seem to be as many where the people clearly went to a lot of time and effort in designing them. The Best Overall, Shelby Hawthorn and Andrew Wight were one of these, Egyptian Goddess and God was most impressive and they won the dinner for two at the Post Ranch. Most Original was won by Sean Sweeney from Plaskett ridge with a very realistic werewolf costume and he won the dinner for two at Ventana. Funniest was the "Newsflash" you kind of had to be there to appreciate that one, and the prize of the dinner for two went to Aaron Wall from Mill Valley. Scariest was the

headless bride, Rachael Mosolf and Bryan Brash from Seaside who won dinner for two at Deetjens. You can visit our web site at [www.bigsurfire.org](http://www.bigsurfire.org) to see the pictures. Harry and the Hitman provided the entertainment for the evening along with Paige Too and the BiG SuRCuS and all were great!!! As always, a huge thank you to Kirk, Holly and Nepenthe for having Big Sur Fire benefit from their great event.

We just had 2 Big Sur Fire members drive to southern California to get certified in a 24-hour rope rescue class. Adam Slawter and Lyle Southhall both took time off from work and their lives to do this! Congratulations!

We have decided to put on another Basic Fire academy training in 2019, the one that we put on this year was such a success! While I don't have exact dates for the timing we are looking at spring to start. It goes for about 2 months with class being on Thursday nights and Saturday days every week. It is a big commitment and especially if it is followed up by the 56 hour EMR, Emergency Medical Responder class. But I think you can ask any of the people that took the one this year and they will encourage you to take it. We need a minimum of 6 people 10 or 12 would be best. If you think you would be interested, you can contact Deputy Chief Matt Harris at: [Mharris@bigsurfire.org](mailto:Mharris@bigsurfire.org).

We did have some residents come up and take advantage of getting their fire extinguishers filled and checked today while Big Sur Fire had ours filled.

A reminder about that you can donate to Big Sur Fire through McGives until the end of the year!!

Lastly, the information below was sent out via email but I thought I would add it in my article in case everyone didn't get the email:

*"Dear Friends,*

*As the Big Sur Fire Board of Directors has decided to implement their succession plan please join me in welcoming Deputy Chief Matt Harris when he assumes the position of Chief on January 1, 2019.*

*I have so appreciated all of your help, friendship and support over the years, in particular after the devastating Pfeiffer Fire.*

*I know you all will be equally supportive of Matt going forward and he will make an excellent Chief!*

*After 42 years in EMS, 14 with the American Red Cross Big Sur Ambulance and almost 28 with Big Sur Fire, wearing a pager and being on call 24/7, I will now see how "normal" people live. You may no longer even recognize me without driving my white Big Sur Fire truck, and yes Nadine, I will now wear another color besides blue!*

*Martha Karstens, Chief"*