

# BIG CREEK RESERVE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

## \*\*\*GETTING EMERGENCY HELP \*\*\* CALL 911\*\*\*

Emergency help is usually available at the manager's cabin at the mouth of Big Creek near the Highway 1 arch bridge (Phone **831-667-2543**) or at Whale Point (**831-667-0208 and 667-0604**). If help is not available there, use the telephone in the library to **CALL 911**. Explain the emergency and your location. Tell the operator that **Big Creek is 4 miles south of Esalen and 5 miles north of Lucia**. Don't hang up until they have told you to do so.

More info about your location: 5 miles north of Lucia and 20 miles south of Big Sur on State Highway 1, paddle marker 28.05. The Big Creek Bridge is the very long cement bridge with two full arches. The driveway is at the south end of the bridge. The entrance is not signed, but can be recognized by the metal "wave" gates.

**Cell phone reception:** If you need to use a cell phone, reception may be found on Highway 1 at the tip of Gamboa Point, 1.5 mi. south of the Big Creek Bridge or 2.5 miles south at a pull-out near a group of pine trees. If you are on the ridge tops, try to be within line of sight of Nepenthe restaurant.

In addition to calling 911 it may be advisable to call the following numbers, as appropriate, to ensure prompt help. Emergency medical and fire assistance: BIG SUR VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE (667-2113), and the USFS PACIFIC VALLEY FIRE STATION (17 miles south: 1-805-927-4211). You should also contact Big Creek staff or the UC Santa Cruz Natural Reserve Coordinator (459-4971) to report the situation.

Big Sur Health Center: **667-2580**

Poison Control Center: **1-800-662-9886**

Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP): **624-5311**

Divers Alert Network: **1-919-684-811**, Toll-free: **1-800-446-2671**

Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade: **667-2113**

Pacific Valley fire station: **1-805-927-4211**

Monterey Sheriff's Department: **647-7911** California Highway Patrol-Salinas: **796-2100**

UCSC Police Office: **459-2345**

Monterey County Office of Emergency Services: **796-1900**

CalTrans Road Conditions: **1-800-427-7623**

Department of Fish & Game dispatch (to report poaching): **649-2810**

Our next-door neighbors (Bob and Joie Milton): **667-0230**

# BIG CREEK RESERVE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, cont.

## EMERGENCY MEETING PLACE: GATEHOUSE CABIN BY HIGHWAY 1 ARCH BRIDGE

### \*\*\*ACCIDENT OR INJURY\*\*\*

For minor injuries, use first aid kits located in the camps, vehicles, and buildings, and report the injury to the reserve staff. **For life-threatening situations or severe injuries**, stabilize the victim (see first aid instructions in kits located in camps, vehicles, and buildings), making them as comfortable as possible (remember, it gets cold at night and may get hot in the day if you are to leave them for any length of time). Use the map to note the location of the victim and **GET HELP** immediately. **Remember to mark your trail and/or otherwise facilitate returning to the victim.** For injuries which are less severe, or if no other help is available, there are emergency first aid supplies in the office by the parking lot at the mouth of Big Creek and at Whale Point. A stretcher is available in the fuel shed nearby. Please inform reserve staff if you have used any first aid supplies.

### \*\*\*FIRE\*\*\*

In case of a small fire, contact fire emergency services immediately. Use water, fire extinguishers, and/or tools to try and put out the fire if feasible. If the fire is large and/or out of control, or if you can't see because of smoke, **alert all persons in the vicinity and EVACUATE TO HIGHWAY 1 IMMEDIATELY** and **call 911**. There are no locked gates within Big Creek Reserve, but there is a gate on the south boundary with French Camp (on Circle M Ranch) which may be locked. All roads have locked gates as they access Highway 1. Remember, **EVACUATION TO HIGHWAY 1 IS MOST IMPORTANT IN THE CASE OF FIRE.**

### \*\*\*FLOODING or EARTHQUAKE\*\*\*

**In case of severe flooding**, do not attempt to cross Big Creek or Devil's Creek. If you are north of Big Creek, you can egress over Dolan Ridge, following the ridge trail down to the highway. If you are on Mining Ridge between Devil's Creek and Big Creek, you must wait until the water subsides and/or you can locate a safe crossing. South of Devil's Creek you may make your way to Highway 1 along the Canyon Road or the Circle M Ranch Road. **In case of heavy rain or severe earthquake**, avoid routes along the canyon bottoms since the danger of falling rocks may be severe.

## **BIG CREEK RESERVE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, cont.**

### **\*\*\*TRESPASSERS or POACHERS\*\*\***

**Do not confront trespassers or poachers.** If it seems appropriate, you may inform them about the special status of the reserve and its programs. As soon as possible, inform reserve staff of any encounter or suspicious activity. Poaching on either the terrestrial or marine reserve, as well as dangerous wildlife activity, can be reported to the Department of Fish & Game by calling the dispatch at 649-2810.

### **\*\*\*SCUBA DIVING INJURY\*\*\***

You should always have first aid and oxygen kits at your entry and exit points. When faced with a diving injury, protect yourself and the injured from further harm, move to a safer location if necessary. Check the ABCs, administer CPR/First Aid and Oxygen as needed. If injury is LIFE THREATENING **contact 911 and DAN (1-919-684-811)** - see "Getting Emergency Help" on the previous pages - these contact names and numbers should be with you at the dive site. Check and monitor injured diver's buddy for DCI signs or symptoms, treat as needed. If injury is not life threatening and emergency evacuation is not necessary, call DAN-Divers Alert Network (1-919-684-811) and transport injured diver to Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP - 831-624-5311). Call the hospital and let them know you are coming. Transit time is about 1 hour. Have the injured diver remain on oxygen until you arrive at CHOMP.

**An additional oxygen kit is available in the Gatehouse Cabin if needed.**

During transport monitor the injured diver for shock and keep them as comfortable as possible. Notify the UCSC Diving Safety Officer of the incident within 24 hours - 831-459-4286.