



# EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** January 5, 2022

**TO:** Bill Hansell: General Manager

**FROM:** Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

**RE:** **Fire Chief's Report for the January 2022 Fire District Board Meeting**

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## December Incident Run Reports

There were 47 incidents that occurred during the month of December in the community of Kensington. This is an increase of 15 calls over the previous month. The annual number of calls in the community was 401 for 2021. Engine 165 responded to a total of 64 calls in December which is an increase of 11 calls over the previous month. Overall, the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department responded to 340 calls for service during the month. There was a total of 3,762 incidents for the year.

## Structure Fires

This month the Fire Department responded to two structure fires in the community that caused significant damage. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, crews responded to a structure fire on Anson Way that was caused by embers from a chimney with no screen landing on a dry shake roof and igniting. The fire burned through the roofing material, but the firefighters were able to extinguish it before it reached the attic.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, there was another fire in the 200 block of Yale which caused major damage to the house. Prior to the fire, crews had been dispatched earlier to this same house for a domestic issue in which there were threats of burning the house. A few hours later, the Fire Department returned to find the house burning and well involved. Through the great efforts of the firefighters, the fire was contained to the one structure with no damage to the exposures. Exact cause is still under investigation.

## Plan Check Costs

The Fire Department is still working on the Plan Check fees. Due to the lack of availability of personnel through the Holidays, we were not able to complete the report for review.

## U.S. Marines Toys for Tots Program



This year was an exceptional year for the Toys for Tots program. El Cerrito and Kensington residents' donations filled 24 boxes of toys that were delivered and distributed through various programs.

## COVID-19 Mandates

While last month the County Health Department loosened the mask requirements among vaccinated personnel, on December 28<sup>th</sup>, the County once again rescinded that health order and is now requiring masks for everyone indoors regardless of vaccination status. In addition, the County is now requiring all previously vaccinated public safety personnel to obtain a booster shot. Those individuals as well as the unvaccinated will be required to be tested every week prior to their shift until such time they can provide proof of vaccination. This change is in response to the surge of omicron variant in the County. County records show that since March of 2020, 156

residents in the community have tested positive which is 44 more than last month however there are still no deaths reported. At the beginning of this month, COVID-19 hospitalization accounted for approximately 11% of the total patients in the County.

**Register with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System**

It cannot be stressed enough the importance to take a moment to register cell phones with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS). CWS will alert you when life-threatening incidents, like wildfire or power shutdowns, occur. [www.cwsalerts.com](http://www.cwsalerts.com)