



EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



10900 San Pablo Avenue ▪ El Cerrito ▪ CA ▪ 94530
(510) 215-4450 ▪ FAX (510) 232-4917
www.el-cerrito.org

DATE: January 11, 2025
TO: Mary Morris-Mayorga: General Manager
FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief
RE: **Fire Chief's Report for the January 2025 Fire District Board Meeting**

Administration – Holiday Safety Message

The holiday season is a prime time for residential fires. December, January, and February are the months that most house fires occur. Cooking, holiday decorations, candles, and heating equipment increase the likelihood of a fire. On average, more than one-third of home fire deaths in the United States occur during the winter months. In addition to always having working smoke alarms installed throughout your home, the following tips can help you stay safe during the holiday season.

- Always keep an eye on food being heated and be alert. If you leave the kitchen - turn off the heat!
- If a pan with grease catches fire, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames and turn off the burner.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Clean and inspect furnaces, fireplaces, and chimneys annually before using them for the upcoming year. Ensure space heaters are approved by a national testing laboratory and have a tip-over shut-off function.
- If you need help, call 911! The fire department is always there for you.



On December 8, Gary Willian was promoted from firefighter to Engineer. The Engineer is responsible for driving the engine and operating the pump at fires. Pumping at fire requires multiple hydraulic calculations and pump adjustments to compensate for hydrant pressure, elevation changes, hose diameter, hose length, and nozzle type while fighting a fire. The Engineer is in a critical position, ensuring our firefighters arrive at the scene safely and receive the correct water pressure to attack a fire effectively. Gary participated in a multi-week training curriculum followed by a competitive testing process to score number one on the ranked list of engineer candidates. The fire department is proud and honored to have dedicated members like Engineer Williams, who are protecting our community. His wife and daughter pinned Gary's badge with his crew at station 51.

Mission: Protect Lives and Property
Integrity Accountability Teamwork Respect Professionalism



EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT



10900 San Pablo Avenue • El Cerrito • CA • 94530
(510) 215-4450 • FAX (510) 232-4917
www.el-cerrito.org

Operations



Service above and beyond: During a routine medical aid, the firefighters of Engine 51 noticed blood from a dialysis port had leaked onto the hardwood floors. After caring for the patient, the firefighters stayed behind to clean the floors by hand. Firefighters are trained to act on a series of priorities: life, property, and environment. Once they stabilize and transport patients, they focus on protecting our residents' property, usually in the context of homes during a fire. But in this incident, they made every effort to ensure the person's house was clean and protected.



Probationary firefighter Becker effectively extinguished a car fire on December 11. Car fires are common occurrences and are challenging to fight because of the lighter than water fuel onboard. Frequently, car fires threaten buildings, and firefighters must act quickly to suppress the fire and protect the building.