



# EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** December 3, 2021

**TO:** Bill Hansell: General Manager

**FROM:** Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

**RE:** **Fire Chief's Report for the December 2021 Fire District Board Meeting**

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## November Incident Run Reports

There were 32 incidents in Kensington for the month of October which was a decrease of 11 calls over the previous month. Total incidents for Station 65 in August were 53 calls which was a decrease of 14 calls over the previous month. Overall, the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department responded to 320 calls for service during the month.

## Plan Check Costs

In continuing from this report from last month, I have been in contact with County Fire officials and have reviewed the process that the County uses for their fee process and the rates that they charge. The Board will be presented with a report and recommendation for initiating a fee schedule for items related to new construction or remodeling as well as other related fees.

## Evacuation Drills

Last month a report was presented to the Board on an upcoming evacuation drill. There will be a meeting of the EPC on Thursday, December 2 and information from this meeting will be presented at the Board meeting.

## Accepting Donations for the U.S. Marines **Toys for Tots** Program



The El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department is working with the U.S. Marines Toys for Tots program to spread the word about the need for monetary donations and donating toys to support families in need. To make an on-line donation, please visit: <https://t.co/QJbf5g2jey>. If you wish to drop off toys for the campaign, they may be dropped off at both El Cerrito Fire Stations and the Kensington Fire Station. Toy barrels will also be located at the El Cerrito Community Center, City Hall, and the

Police Department. The last drop-off day is December 18. All toys must be new and unwrapped. No toy weapons or stuffed animals are accepted. Donate early so that the Marines have time to sort, shop and deliver. For more information, please contact Fire Captain Damien Carrion at (510) 215-4450.

## COVID-19 Mandates

The County Health Department loosened the mask requirements among vaccinated personnel last month. The Fire Department continues to enforce masks inside the fire station and apparatus if anyone is not vaccinated and for all visitors to the Station. Those unvaccinated are still being tested in house at the start of their shifts. While the Delta variant surge continues to decline in the County as are the number in the hospitals and ICU beds. County records show that since March of last year, 108 residents in the community have tested positive which is 10 more than last month however there are still no deaths reported. At this point it is too early to tell the impact that the new Omicron variant will have on the County. Crews however will continue to wear full PPE on all medical calls in addition to the mandates in the stations.

### **Battalion Chief Job Offer**

As reported out last month, the Fire Department has made a conditional offer of employment for the position of Battalion Chief to Chase (Charles) Beckman who lives in Martinez with his wife and three children. Chase currently works for Cal Fire at the rank of Captain A and is assigned to the Northern Region Office of the State Fire Marshal in their Land Use Planning Program which works with local governments to address the risk from wildfire for existing land uses and new developments.

His 21-year career with the State started off as a seasonal firefighter both engine based and on a helitack team. As a Captain, he has worked suppression operations in Napa County and as a Fire Crew and Administrative Captain at Delta Conservation Camp. Prior to his current assignment, Chase was the Deputy Fire Marshal for Napa County performing plan reviews, street evaluations, residential and commercial inspections, and the County Chipping Program. He is also qualified as a Strike Team/Task Force Leader and Division Group Supervisor as well as several Incident Management Team positions.

Chase brings to El Cerrito-Kensington his 21 years of diversified firefighting experience in both wildland and city-based operations, vegetation management practices as well as his knowledge and skills working as a Deputy Fire Marshal and his network connection with the State. Currently he is going through his pre-employment process of background, medical and psychological evaluation. Please contact me if you have any questions.

### **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)