



# EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** November 4, 2022

**TO:** Bill Hansell: General Manager

**FROM:** Eric Saylor: Fire Chief

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

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## **Operations**

### *September Incident Run Reports*

Thirty-two incidents occurred during October in the community of Kensington. Engine 165 responded to fifty-five calls.

## **Administration**

### *Standard Operating Procedures*

The El Cerrito-Kensington fire department is issuing a captain's test on November 10th. The agency currently has five candidates and will evaluate them on their ability to manage emergency incidents and supervise personnel. We are all very excited to develop the next generation.

El Cerrito-Kensington issued its first standard operation procedures (SOG) for residential fires and its first doctrine on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

The fire chief presented to Kensington's Emergency Preparedness Committee on outdoor warning systems and grants. The presentation included a brief overview of the warning systems and the city of Berkeley's planned building out of fifteen speakers.

### *Vegetation Inspections*

The Fire Department continues its residential inspections for compliance with the District's Vegetation Management Policy. State Law requires compliance in "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones" at all times; Annual grasses and weeds must always be maintained to 4" to 6". Cutting or mowing short dry grass is much safer than waiting until it is 2' or taller and dry. The District's and Cal Fire's websites provide information on safe practices around the home to create a safe environment.

## **Training**

### *Active Shooter Drill*

Fire department members continue to participate in an active shooter at grammar school with law enforcement agencies. The drill allows the fire department to improve its planning and response to active shooter events. The fire chief participated in a Kensington hilltop grammar school walk-through to evaluate security upgrades. The department is exploring using the Adams Middle School off of Arlington Patterson to hold joint training for law enforcement and the fire department.

### *Citizen Engagement*

Registering with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System can save lives. All residents of Kensington should register their cell phones with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS). CWS will alert you when life-threatening incidents, like wildfires or power shutdowns, occur. Registration can take place at [www.cwsalerts.com](http://www.cwsalerts.com)