



EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: June 2, 2021

TO: Bill Hansell: General Manager

FROM: Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

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

May Incident Run Report

There were 24 incidents in Kensington for the month of May. This was an increase of 3 calls over the previous month. Total incidents for Station 65 in April were 53 calls which was an increase of 2 calls over the previous month. Overall, the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department responded to 319 calls for service during the month.

Significant Calls

On May 6th at approximately 11:35 am, the Fire Department was dispatched to a possible structure fire in the 200 block of Columbia Avenue. In addition to Engine 165, auto-aid responded from Richmond and Berkeley in addition to the two El Cerrito engines. Upon Engine 165's arrival, the resident pointed out that she had seen sparks and flames coming up from an outlet behind a piece of furniture. There was evidence of soot, and the wall was warm to touch with the thermal imager indicated there was heat behind the wall. The crews opened the wall and found an arced wire going to the plug. There was no extension to the fire and the wire was isolated.

On May 12th at approximately 7:00 pm, the Fire Department was dispatched to an unknown rescue at the end of Yale Circle. A rescue unit from Richmond was also dispatched in addition to Engine 172 and 165. Upon arrival, crews were informed that a person walking fell down a steep ravine/hillside and was unable to climb out on his own. A rope haul system was set up and Engine 165's firefighter was lowered down to the hiker. After determining that he was not injured, a haul system was set up and both the hiker and the firefighter were brought back up the road.

ISO Public Protection Classification Survey 2021

Representatives from Verisk Insurance Solutions, the corporate company that performs the analysis and evaluation for the ISO classification were on site over 5 months ago gathering performance data for the Fire Department's ISO rating which had not been done since 2014. At that time, the Fire Department was rated at 85 points which is a solid ISO classification of 2. This year our preliminary numbers are at 87.18 which is still a strong classification of 2!

ISO's Public Protection Classification Program (PPC) plays an important role in the underwriting process at insurance companies. It is reported that most U.S. insurers, including the largest ones, use the PPC information as part of their decisions making when deciding what businesses to write, coverages to offer or process top charge for personal or commercial property insurance. The PPC process and final classification is based on our personnel staffing and response times, fire apparatus and equipment, water supply, community risk reduction programs and our dispatch center. Maintaining the high rating is even more important considering the recent history of resident's insurance rates increasing or even being cancelled.

Vegetation Management

As reported out last month, the local vegetation fuel moisture levels continue to drop and are at late summer levels. Due to these conditions, the Fire Department is continuing with residential inspections of properties in the community to get 100% compliance before the super critical late summer/fall heat and Diablo winds. All residents are urged to cut weeds, trim bushes, and prune up tree limbs to develop a defensible space around their homes and property. Early spring cleanup of resident's property will make the Fire Department's job easier and help everyone avoid inspection fees and abatement costs. Vegetation Management Information is available at the Department's website. Fire Prevention will be coming to the Board on July 14th with the Resolution and Nuisance Declaration for approval.

Occupancy Inspections

The Fire Department is continuing to conduct occupancy or Fire Safety inspections at the businesses and apartments in the community. With many businesses opening back up or increasing their capacities, it is important to complete these inspections and ensure compliance to the fire and safety codes.

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