



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: April 10, 2025
TO: Mary Morris-Mayorga: General Manager
FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief
RE: **Fire Chief's Report for the April 2025 Fire District Board Meeting**

Operations

The storms and heavy winds in March pulled some sheds and roofs apart. One of the roof sections settled into a tree, creating a life hazard. Crews from the fire department responded to the hazard and found a way to remove the roof section from the tree before it fell on someone. Our firefighters primary train for fire suppression and medical emergencies; however, they can never predict what special scenario will come next, and they respond to any hazard that threatens life or property.



Training

The goal of every firefighter to know the job above and below them so that in times of emergency we can still function. Our new firefighters recently received engineer training on how to operate the main pump of the fire engine. Operating the pump requires understanding and calculating the friction loss water experience flowing through hose while adjusting for the length, diameter, and type of hose to provide the correct pressure to the nozzle in the fire fight. In addition, ever fire requires at least two hoses of different length or size to be deployed from the same pump, requiring constant adjustments to the pressure.





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Every year our fighters test the engine's hose to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard to ensure the hose can withstand the pressure and rigors of an interior fire attack. These pressures typically range from 200 to 300 pounds per square inch, depending on the hose type. Hose that fails are retired from service and replaced. Firefighters Arechiga and Becker are performing a hose pump test on the State provided OES engine.



Public Outreach

Engine 52 A shift (Captain Hoyer-Nielsen, Engineer Hood and Firefighter Becker) visited Cameron School this week to teach the kids about fire safety. School visits are typically the fire time children are exposed to fire fighters and public safety. During these regular visits, children learn about what to do during fires, what dangers around the home to avoid, and what a firefighter will look and sound like when they enter a burning home to search for them.

