



EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: October 7, 2022

TO: Bill Hansell: General Manager

FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief

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

Operations

September Incident Run Reports

Twenty-one incidents occurred during September in the community of Kensington. Engine 165 responded to 57 calls, including one structure fire response. E165 established a water supply for E71 and pulled a two-out line, assisting in containing the fire to the building of origin and completing the salvage, overhaul, and investigation. All residents evacuated from the structure, and fire crews rescued one cat.

Administration

Standard Operating Procedures

The El Cerrito-Kensington fire department is preparing for a captain's test in November. Members of the testing committee are currently drafting questions and scenarios for the test.

El Cerrito-Kensington is drafting its first standard operation procedures (SOG) for confined space and trench rescue. East Bay MUD is replacing a water main under Richman street, and the construction work will have sections of the road open in a trench for two years. The SOGs will keep our members safe and assist with rescues in collapsed trenches. The department is currently searching for funding for additional training and equipment to aid in trench rescues.

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.

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