



EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: October 4, 2021

TO: Bill Hansell: General Manager

FROM: Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

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

September Incident Run Reports

There were 35 incidents in Kensington for the month of September which was a decrease of 4 calls over the previous month. Total incidents for Station 65 in August were 63 calls which was the same as the previous month. Overall, the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department responded to 343 calls for service during the month.

Structure Fires

There were two reported structure fires in the community in September. On September 7th, the Fire Department was dispatched to the 200 block of Coventry Road for a fire in an oven. Upon arrival, the fire had been extinguished and was contained to the appliance. Upon investigation, it appeared that the food that the occupant had in the stove had ignited. Crews removed the smoke from the structure and disconnect the gas and power to the stove.

On September 11th, the Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 200 block of Kenyon Avenue. Upon arrival, crews found a small fire in the kitchen isolated to the top of the microwave oven. After investigating, it appeared that the fire was caused by towels that were stored on top of the appliance were in contact with an under-cabinet light. Damage was limited to the microwave over and the cabinets. Crews removed the microwave to the yard and isolated the power to the plug and under-cabinet lights.

COVID-19 Mandates

The Fire Department continues to enforce masks inside the fire station and apparatus and those unvaccinated are still being tested in house at the start of their shifts. 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, 90 residents in the community have tested positive with no deaths. Crews however will continue to wear full PPE on all medical calls in addition to the mandates in the stations.

Battalion Chief Interviews

The business management consultant firm Peckham & McKenney has begun interviews for the Battalion Chief/Fire Marshall to replace BC Gibson who retired in December of 2020. Department interviews will be on September 19th and a choice will be made by the end of the month.

Out of County Deployment

On September 24th, the OES Engine #413 was deployed and assigned to the Fawn Fire northeast of Shasta Lake. Fortunately, the State deployed resources quickly and the fire was contained to approximately 8,500 acres. Since then, the engine has returned, and all crews are back on duty.

Statewide there have been over 7,700 wildfires this year and there are 12 active large fires currently burning. More than 2,500,000 acres have burned, and more than 3,600 structures have been damaged or destroyed. While currently the Fire Department has no one deployed, so far this year personnel have been deployed 19 times to 8 different fires so far and have logged over 7,700 hours.

Vegetation Management

Despite a couple of precipitation occurrences and recent marine layers in the area, the local vegetation fuel moisture levels continue to drop and are at November levels. At this point all properties that were notified of violations have complied with standards. However, the Fire Department is continuing with residential inspections of properties in the community. Based on these past and ongoing inspections, it appears that the majority of the residents are complying with the District. Vegetation Management Information is available at the Department's website.

Ready for Wildfire?

In a continuing effort for residents to be prepared for wildfires, Cal Fire has an opt-in program that anyone can register their cell phone and ZIP code to receive text updates on any fire in the local area. There are also helpful check lists and other information to help you evaluate your home and property to be better prepared for a wildfire event. The link to this sign in is:

<https://incidents.readyforwildfire.org/>

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