



EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: March 2, 2022

TO: Bill Hansell: General Manager

FROM: Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

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

February Incident Run Reports

There were 36 incidents that occurred during the month of February in the community of Kensington. This is a small increase of 3 calls over the previous month. Engine 165 responded to a total of 54 calls in February which is a decrease of 2 calls over the previous month. Overall, the El Cerrito / Kensington Fire Department responded to 280 calls for service during the month of February.

New Battalion Chief

I am pleased to share that Battalion Chief Joseph Torres has officially started his employment with the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department. He completed the lengthy background checks, medical exams, and psychological evaluation. His first day on the job was this past Monday, March 7th. Joe will be assigned to C shift and will also handle support services for the Department. Joe brings great work ethics and experience to the Department and his knowledge of West County will make his transition to our department much easier.

Vegetation Inspections

With the dry start to the year and area entering its third year of drought, the Fire Department will soon be starting residential inspections for compliance to the District's Vegetation Management Policy. Residents maintaining their property is not a seasonal task as State Law requires compliance in "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones" at all times. Even annual grasses and weeds are required to be always cut and maintained to a height of 4" to 6". While it entails more work, it is much safer to cut or mow short dry grass that waiting till it is 2' tall and dry. These is more information on the District's website as well as Cal Fire's web site.

COVID-19 Mandates

The County continues to see a decline in COVID infections and hospitalizations since the pickup in January. Health officials in the County are aligning with the State's guidelines including masks not being required for K-12 students and for most indoor venues. However, they are allowing local districts and businesses to continue with the mandates if they choose.

The County is still requiring all previously vaccinated public safety personnel to obtain a booster shot and recommending it for all residents. The Department is still requiring those individuals that have not had their booster as well as the unvaccinated to be tested every week prior to their shift until such time they can provide proof of vaccination. County records show that since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020, there have been 275 positive cases reported for residents of Kensington which about 22 more than last month. Sadly, after almost 2 years with no reported deaths, this past month there was 1 reported COVID death in the community.

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