



EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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DATE: June 3, 2022

TO: Bill Hansell: General Manager

FROM: Jose Castrejon: Interim Fire Chief

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

May Incident Run Reports

There were 36 incidents that occurred during the month of May in the community of Kensington. This is an increase of 12 incidents from the previous month. Engine 165 responded to a total of 65 incidents in May which is a decrease of 8 incidents over the previous month. Overall, the El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department has responded to 1,588 calls for service so far this year.

There was an increase in incidents last month. Engine 165's total was higher within the community. The primary area of calls for service continues to be medical emergencies and assists.

Vegetation Inspections

The Fire Department has completed the initial round of residential inspections for compliance with the District's Vegetation Management Policy. Residents with properties that were found to be out of compliance have been notified and will move on to the public hearing phase. State Law requires compliance in "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones" at all times. This includes annual grasses and weeds are required to be always cut and maintained to a height of 4" to 6". While this entails more frequent maintenance the benefit is a reduced risk of a fire while mowing. Mowing grasses before noon also lowers the fire risk of unintentionally starting a fire. For more information on the District's website as well as Cal Fire's website on safe practices around the home to create a safe environment.

COVID-19 Mandates

The County has seen an uptick in COVID infections for the month of May. There were no new deaths reported in Kensington from the virus at this time. Twenty-six new cases were reported in the last fourteen days bringing the positive test count to 369 in the community. The County and the Fire Department have relaxed some of their protocols, the Department continues to test all non-vaccinated personnel at the start of their shift and requires masks to be worn on all responses.

Fire Season

The month of May has brought an early start to fire season. As part of California Interagency Incident Management Teams, fire department personnel have seen early deployments to assist with incidents in Arizona and New Mexico. Regionally we have experienced several Red Flag days to the North in Solano County and East in the Central Valley. Thankfully the District has been spared from the Red Flag Days primarily due to the

higher humidity provided by the San Francisco Bay. Let us use this as a reminder to take steps to be prepared for the potential of a wildfire. Please visit www.readyforwildfire.org to learn more.

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