



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: Feb 21, 202

TO: Mary Morris-Mayorga: General Manager

FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief

RE: **Fire Chief's Report for the February 2024 Fire District Board Meeting**

Operations

Tr51, staffed by Captain/Paramedic Renshaw, Engineer Dawson, Firefighter Ferreira-Clifton and led by B/C Janes, assisted the fire department in suppressing a two-alarm commercial fire. Mutual aid and cooperation between the regional fire departments continue to be a key to maintaining public safety.



Training

Three new firefighters started a joint academy with the Richmond Fire Department. The academy will run for fourteen weeks while the firefighters learn the basics of operating in a highly dense urban environment. El Cerrito's Engineer Anthony Dawson and Reserve Engine 151 joined the proud academy staff to help guide the next generation of recruits into the profession and craft of firefighting.





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DATE: January 25, 2024

TO: Kensington Emergency Preparedness Committee

FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief

RE: **Goals for the KEPC**

Hello, members of the Kensington Emergency Preparedness Committee (KEPC). I apologize for missing the in-person meeting; I am teaching an Active Shooter Class for the Office of Emergency Services. Director Nagel asked me for a future direction for the KEPC.

I applaud the committee's efforts to protect the community. Concerning the members and the mission of the KEPC, the most effective future is to evolve into a formal Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). A formal CERT requires articles of incorporation, bylaws, and a board of directors.

- A formal CERT supports public safety service personnel as an additional resource in emergency and non-emergency events. CERT provide disaster training to citizens in the region.
- The Cert concept originated in Los Angeles in 1985 following several earthquakes. CERT aimed to develop a multi-functional volunteer response team that could provide basic fire suppression, light search and rescue, and first aid. Following 9/11, CERT became the foundation of nationwide citizen response groups with the goal to evolve into a fully integrated Fire Department volunteer force.
- A formal CERT team would give the KEPC a clear mission and allow it to receive funds, purchase equipment, and have members train with the fire department.

This is the natural progression of a committee addressing emergency preparedness into an organization actively preparing and training for an emergency. The El Cerrito/Kensington Fire Department will support a formal CERT organization and invite its members to our drills. The community will benefit from a professional fire department supported by well-trained citizens who can respond with us during disasters.

If the KEPC is interested in such an evolution, I can set up a presentation with a current, highly functioning CERT group to guide us through the process.

Thank you
Eric Saylor
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