



# EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** April 6, 2021

**TO:** Bill Hansell: General Manager

**FROM:** Michael Pigoni: Fire Chief

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

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## **March Run Report**

There were 34 incidents in Kensington for the month of February. This is an increase of 8 calls over the previous month primarily due to the additional days and increased medical emergencies and public assists. Total incidents for Station 65 in March were 53 calls which was an increase of 5 incidents over the previous month. There were no fires or any significant incidents resulting in property loss for the month of March.

## **Vegetation Management**

Seasonal rainfall continues to be below normal, and the fuel moistures continue to drop rapidly. While the annual grasses may still be green, they are starting to cure and will be dry soon. The Fire Department has started the inspection program with a courtesy letter that was mailed out to addresses with a history of vegetation violations. We have also visually inspected parcels earlier than normal this year to try and beat the potential critical time period. All residents are urged to cut weeds, trim bushes, and prune up tree limbs to develop a defensible space around their homes and property. Early spring cleanup of resident's property will make the Fire Department's job easier and help everyone avoid inspection fees and abatement costs. Vegetation Management Information is available at the Department's website.

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Update**

Over the last three months the County Fire Agencies have participated in a Countywide effort to staff drive through vaccination sites. These sites will be held at various times at the Valley Bible Church in Hercules for the West County. The Department supported this effort in providing medics to administer the shots. These efforts have now been consolidated with County Health and participating pharmacies. All these efforts have been effective in the County with the current cases per 100K population at 5.9 and positivity rate at 1.9%. This is vast improvement over the cases being at over 62 per 100K and positivity rate almost 17% in early January. Kensington continues to be the one of lowest in the county with only 45 total cases and no deaths per the County metrics.

## **Occupancy Inspections**

With the COVID-19 picture improving, the Fire Department is starting to conduct occupancy or Fire Safety inspections at businesses and apartments. This program was put on hold most of last year due to the COVID-19 concerns and the initial uncertainties. With many businesses opening back up or increasing their capacities, it is important to complete these inspections and insure compliance to the fire and safety codes.

## **Virtual Evacuation Test**

The Contra Costa County Office of Emergency Services will be conducting a virtual live test of the Community Warning System scheduled currently for May 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 8:00 am. While this will be a live test, there will be no action required of the public other than a request to take a quick online survey. The test will be sent to all the

zones in the El Cerrito and Kensington area. The messages will be sent as phone calls, text and email and will be like:

*This is a TEST message from the El Cerrito and Kensington Police Departments. In the event of a large-scale evacuation of the community, this system will be used to issue evacuation orders, provide incident information and evacuation location information. No action is required at this time. This is a test.*

The notices will be conducted in real time in that one or two zones at a time will be notified and continue to move through all of them until done. Total time is estimated to be about an hour.

### **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](http://www.cwsalerts.com)