



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: August 21, 2024
TO: Mary Morris-Mayorga: General Manager
FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief
RE: **Fire Chief's Report for the August 2024 Fire District Board Meeting**

Operations

Fire Season started early in 2024 El Cerrito/Kensington fire department responded to requests for mutual to the Park fire at 429,263 acres, the Thomson fire at 3,789 acres, the Lake fire at 38,664 acres, the Shelly fire at 15,520 acres, and the Borel fire at 59,288 acres. El Cerrito/Kensington firefighters are some of the highest trained and skilled firefighters in the state and are frequently requested to fill specialty positions on large fires. The fire department's out of county mutual aid responses are funded by The California Office of Emergency Services and ensures Kensington will receive help from outside sources in the event of a major Wildfire.



Captain Renshaw responded to the Borel incident as a communications specialist. Captain Renshaw set up repeaters across the rugged terrain to ensure firefighters in the remote areas can communicate with the incident commander and other units. The Borel fire destroyed 252 structures, consumed 59,288 acres, and required 811 firefighters to suppress.



Captain Hoyer-Nielson, firefighter Driscoll, and firefighter Becker responded to the Park fire as part of a five engine strike team. The crew faced high heat and burnt terrain for over a week as they battled the largest fire in 2024. The Park fire destroyed 686 structures, consumed 429,263 acres, and required 5426 firefighters to suppress.



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Captain Ciappara, Engineer Clarine, firefighter Driscoll, and firefighter Vernarecci were one of the first fire engines to respond to the Park fire in it's first few hours. The crew witnessed the massive smoke plum as the fire spread across the landscape.



Captain Carrion, Engineer Clarine, firefighter Driscoll, and firefighter Vernarecc responded to the Shelly fire as part of a five-engine strike team. Captain Carrion and captured images of the fire advancing on over a hillside toward homes they were defending. The Shelly fire consumed 15,520 acres, injures 8 people, and required 701 firefighters to suppress.



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Captain Renshaw responded to the Lake incident as a communications specialist. Captain Renshaw set up repeaters across the rugged terrain to ensure firefighters in the remote areas can communicate with the incident commander and other units. Captain Renshaw witnessed the massive smoke plume of the 38,000-acre fire. The Lake fire destroyed 5 structures, injured 7 people, and required 447 firefighters to suppress.



Captain/Paramedic Hoyer-Nielsen, Engineer Janes, FF Becker and FF Vernarecci responded to the Thompson fire as part of a five-engine strike team to defend homes and check burned areas for possible restarts of the fire. The Thompson fire destroyed 36 structures and consumed 3,789 acres.

Training

The El Cerrito Fire department started Command College, a curriculum that teaches fire officers how to manage major incidents and large fires. Command College runs every Wednesday from 9:00 am to 11:00 am through 2024.



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Public education and outreach



Captain Dawson, Firefighter/Paramedic Williams and Firefighter/Paramedic Van Wyck meet with the students at the El Cerrito Preschool C0-op to discuss fire safety and expose the children to what a firefighter looks like when to enter a house to find them.



The El Cerrito-Kensington Fire Department is now accepting registration for CERT classes that begin on October 2, 2024. The registration form can be found <https://www.el-cerrito.org/577/Register-for-Classes>