



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: April, 2024
TO: Tim Barry: General Manager
FROM: Eric Saylor: Fire Chief
RE: **Fire Chief's Report for the April 2024 Fire District Board Meeting**

Operations



E51 extinguished a fully involved vehicle fire at the gas station on the corner of Central and Pierce. The fire was contained to the vehicle. One patient was treated and transported to hospital. Vehicle fires spread quickly due to the amount of heat they release and produce numerous poisonous gases from the burning materials. Full turnouts and self-contained burning apparatus (SCBA) are required for the firefighter to survive the event. The fast actions of the firefighters prevented the spread of a potentially catastrophic fire.

Administration



On March 22nd, the Richmond Fire Department held its annual Public Safety Awards Dinner. El Cerrito-Kensington's Engine 51 B shift received an award for the lifesaving actions during a structure fire in Richmond. The E51 crew provided exceptional Advance Life Support (ALS) for a victim removed from the structure fire by Engine 66. Every engine in El Cerrito carries ALS equipment and is staffed by Paramedics to improve victim survival of fires and other emergencies. Receiving an award from an

Respect Professionalism



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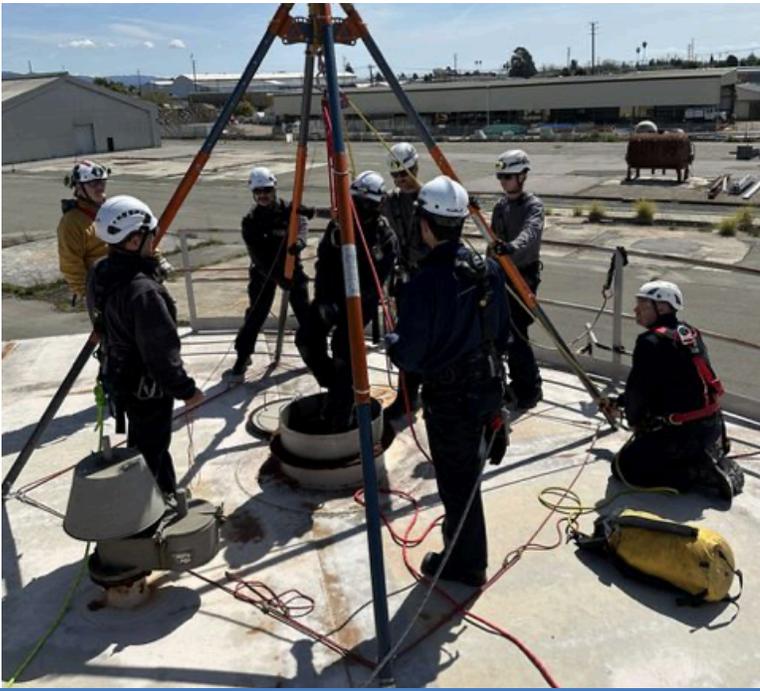
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outside agency is a rare event and reminds us of the exceptional skills and professionalism of our firefighters. Engineer Dawson and Firefighter Ferreira-Clifton are shown with their Battalion Chief Kevin Janes. Captain Renshaw was unable to attend.

Training



On March 13, E51 conducted a confined space rescue exercise with the contractor working on the pipeline installation on Richmond Street. In addition, on March 21, E55 participated in confined space rescue drill at the Chevron facility. The training simulated the department's actions if a workers had an emergency while underground. Confined space rescues are one of the most hazardous incidents firefighters face. The environment tends to release poison gases from the earth while the threat of trench collapse is increased by wet soils and small earthquake tremors. Confined rescues have the tendency to kill more rescuers than workers. All of the firefighters in El Cerrito fire department are confined space rescue technicians.



E51 participated in a multi-agency commercial structure fire drill with units from Contra Costa County fire, including E73, E76, Tr76, and Battalion Chief 7. It requires at least five engines, three trucks, and three battalion chiefs to suppress commercial structure fires. Inner-agency drills are required for firefighters to coordinate strategies and tactics during active firefighting.



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Public Outreach



E51 participated in the opening ceremony for the 2024 Special Olympics at El Cerrito High School. Captain Ciappara, Engineer Clarine and Engineer Janes welcome the athletes to El Cerrito.



On March 26, civilian Fire prevention officer Tom Peters and Captain Crumpacker meet with Wildcat Firewise community to discuss way residents can harden their homes and yards to the threat of wildfire. Home hardening is best way to prevent wildfires from spreading from incoming embers into houses.