



# EL CERRITO-KENSINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

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**DATE:** September 11, 2022

**TO:** Bill Hansell: General Manager

**FROM:** Eric Saylor: Fire Chief

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

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## **Operations**

### *August Incident Run Reports*

Thirty-Seven incidents occurred during August in the community of Kensington. Engine 165 responded to a total of 57 calls in August, including one structure fire response. E165 contained the fire to the building of origin and completed the salvage, overhaul, and investigation with the assistance of E171 and E172.

## **Administration**

### *Standard Operating Procedures*

The El Cerrito-Kensington fire department drafted its first standard operation procedures (SOG) for residential fires. Modern home contents burn faster and hotter, reaching flashover in roughly 50% than in the 1980's. As a result, most residential fires require multiple fire engines and a truck to extinguish. SOGs will assist in the rapid coordination of multiple units on a resident fire to ensure all objectives are met. Once the residential SOGs are developed, the fire department will start working on commercial building SOGs.

### *Vegetation Inspections*

The Fire Department continues its residential inspections for compliance with the District's Vegetation Management Policy. State Law requires compliance in "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones" at all times; Annual grasses and weeds must always be maintained to 4" to 6". Cutting or mowing short dry grass is much safer than waiting until it is 2' or taller and dry. The District's and Cal Fire's websites provide information on safe practices around the home to create a safe environment.

## **Training**

### *Active Shooter Drill*

Members of the fire department participated in an active shooter at grammar school with law enforcement agencies. The drill used live roll players as victims, requiring the members to apply bleeding control and assist with removal of victims to an evacuation zone. The drill allowed the fire department to improve its planning a response to the active shooter events.

### *Citizen Engagement*

Registering with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System can save lives. All residents of Kensington should register their cell phones with the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (CWS). CWS will alert you when life-threatening incidents, like wildfires or power shutdowns, occur. Registration can take place at [www.cwsalerts.com](http://www.cwsalerts.com)