



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

• OSSP Monthly Activities for July 2024

Summary

This monthly report provides a summary of OSSP activities for July 2024 in the following key areas:

- Security and Emergency Management
 - Security and Emergency Response
 - Emergency Management Program Update
- Safety, Regulatory, and Training (SRT)
 - Health and Safety Programs
 - Environmental Programs
 - Apprenticeship Programs
 - Safety and Technical Training Programs

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Attachment 1: Detailed Report – OSSP Monthly Activities for July 2024

Office of Safety, Security & Protection

Key Activities Report for July 2024

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Management

Security and Emergency Response

Wildfire Response

Over the July 20 weekend, Metropolitan Security and Emergency Management staff and contract security officers responded to multiple wildfires, including the Tin Fire, which threatened Lake Mathews buildings and assets and Eagle Rock, approaching Metropolitan's Operations Control Center (OCC) and Security Watch Center (SWC). Staff assessed damages and coordinated with local fire departments and other Metropolitan staff.

With CalFire and local mutual agency firefighters simultaneously engaged with several other fires in the vicinity, contract security, Metropolitan Eastern Conveyance and Distribution (C&D) staff, and Fish and Wildlife rangers successfully fought off small breakout fires near multiple Lake Mathew buildings with water trucks, fire hoses, and fire extinguishers. The fire came within feet of several buildings and caused minor property damage.

Staff did an excellent job of coordinating, communicating, and organizing emergency response efforts on short notice. Air quality and safety notifications were also distributed to affected Metropolitan personnel. The Metropolitan Emergency Operations Center (EOC) did not activate for this incident but was ready to if needed.



Contract security, Metropolitan staff, and responders fight back wildfire flames within feet of Lake Mathews

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Emergency Management Program Update

Towards the end of June, Emergency Management staff participated in multiple safety fairs to promote emergency preparedness and the role of Metropolitan's Emergency Management Program.



Emergency preparedness and the role of Metropolitan's Emergency Management Program were promoted at multiple safety fairs

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On June 28, Emergency Management staff responded to the Weymouth Plant to assist staff with setting up an Incident Command Post (ICP) in response to a domestic water line leak that led to a temporary communication outage. Weymouth staff did a great job repairing the leak and returning to normal operations in a timely manner.

On July 16, staff held its quarterly Member Agency Emergency Management meeting. These regular meetings allow staff to share current emergency management topics such as upcoming training and exercises and emergency response communications with member agencies.

On July 20, staff supported Security by setting up a mobile command post for the employee appreciation event in Whittier. This command post provided links to multiple resources and acted as a coordination point for Security personnel during the event. This also provided a solid field exercise for personnel to check equipment before actual deployment.



Mobile command post for the employee appreciation event in Whittier

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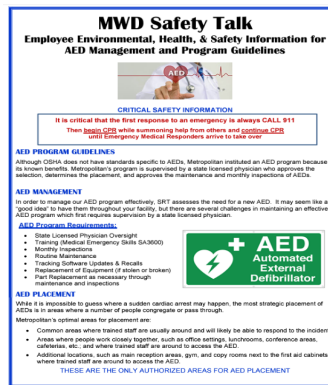
Project Highlights

Safety, Regulatory, and Training

SRT Health & Safety Programs

Safety Talks

A new Safety Talk on Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) Management and Program Guidelines was posted. This safety talk provides information on the AED Program requirements, including AED placement, maintenance, and check-out provisions for field staff.



Safety Talk for AED

Heat Illness Prevention Program

Heat Wave and High Heat Alert messages are sent to all employees during a heat wave or high heat events of temperatures $\geq 95^{\circ}\text{F}$. The alert message provides reminders to employees to use preventive measures, such as water, shade, and cool-down rests, and to review the emergency plan for summoning medical help in case of a heat-related illness. Additionally, written procedures, training, and safety talks are being revised to incorporate the new indoor heat illness prevention regulation changes. The Indoor Heat Illness Prevention regulation is anticipated to be effective October 2024.

SRT Environmental Programs

Emergency Dewatering

Special approval was obtained from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct emergency dewatering of San Diego Pipeline 5 pursuant to a previously approved Raw Water Discharge Plan (RWDP). The dewatering was required to allow for member agency leak emergency repairs. Staff then submitted an updated RWDP after the shutdown was completed.

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB) Management

SRT met with both the new and retiring EPA Region 9 managers to discuss challenges with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) encountered at Metropolitan infrastructures and to review the strategies used by Metropolitan to address the hazard. This meeting builds a working relationship which helps and maintains continuity during EPA's transition to a manager.

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Abandoned Waste

SRT responded for a clean-up of abandoned waste found on Metropolitan property near the Skinner/San Diego Canal. The waste consisted of hazardous waste mixed with trash.



Before clean-up



After clean-up

SRT Apprenticeship Programs

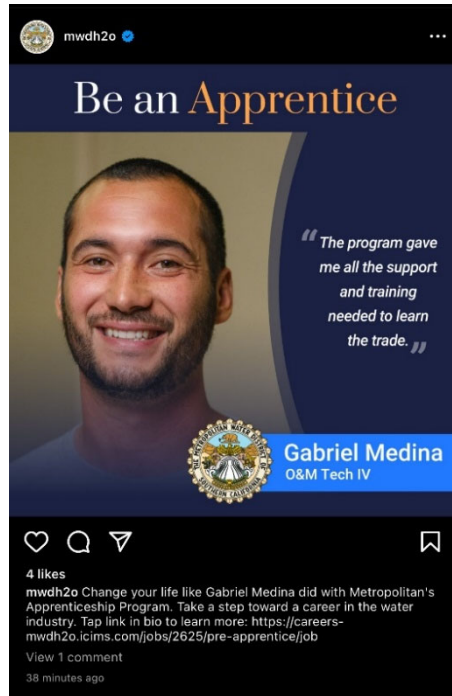
SRT Apprenticeship Programs prepare apprentices to become qualified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the Class of 2026 electrical apprentices visited the Robert A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant during a high-voltage distribution switchgear outage. Apprentices worked with experienced journeys to gain a first-hand understanding of high voltage equipment and testing procedures. The visit concluded with a facility tour conducted by the electrical team manager and former apprentice who emphasized the role electrical equipment serves in plant operations.



Electrical apprentices witnessing high voltage testing at Skinner

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Apprenticeship staff also coordinated with External Affairs to create social media posts designed to promote apprentice recruitment for hire in early 2025. Using social media platforms for outreach allowed Metropolitan to connect and engage with a broader audience. The job announcement and recruitment schedule were posted in June. The application filing period opens August 2.



Social media post promoting apprenticeship

Finally, Apprenticeship staff met with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to share overviews of their respective apprenticeship programs. Throughout the collaboration, both groups exchanged ideas, resources, skills, and information aimed at continuous improvement.

SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

This month, Safety and Technical Training staff coordinated with a vendor to provide the 5-year National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) training. This training is required to keep staff certified for operating Metropolitan's large mobile cranes, including the lattice boom cranes and the swing and fixed-cab telescopic boom cranes. To obtain NCCCO certification, employees must pass a written exam and a practical assessment for each style of crane they will operate.

Between January and June 2024, SRT has delivered 339 instructor-led classes to 2191 employees covering 53 unique topics, including practical assessments. In addition to the instructor-led offerings, Safety & Technical Training administered a total of 6230 online courses covering 51 safety topics.