



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

### • OSSP Monthly Activities for August 2024

#### Summary

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This monthly report provides a summary of OSSP activities for August 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

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Informational

#### Attachments

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

## Key Activities Report for August 2024

### Project Highlights

#### Security and Emergency Management

#### Security and Emergency Response

##### Semiautonomous Robotic Security Patrol Pilot

Security robotics is an exciting new area in critical infrastructure protection that can potentially address future high-risk operations, chemical spill response incidents, or other tasks deemed too risky for direct human interventions. The Security and Emergency Management Unit is evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of implementing robotic guard unit services to patrol select areas of occupied Metropolitan critical facilities. Securitas, Metropolitan’s current guard force contractor, is exploring robotics as a possible alternative to augment traditional human contract security guard services.

This month, Jensen and Valley Conveyance and Distribution (C&D) staff observed an initial ground survey conducted at the Jensen Water Treatment Plant using Spot—a quadruped, semiautonomous, ground vehicle (Q-UGV) developed by Boston Dynamics and operated by Asylon Robotics. Spot is a unique ground robot that is part of an exclusive security system that pairs Spot with an aerial drone. Spot’s legs and life-like movement allow it to easily climb stairs, travel over uneven terrain, re-right itself, navigate curbs, and negotiate parking lots into a large diameter pipe. The robotic dynamic duo’s features include:

- Advanced geospatial technology
- Artificial intelligence (AI)
- Specialized hardware and cutting-edge software to enable live video monitoring, semi-autonomous preprogrammed patrol routes, 20X optical zoom, thermal night vision, automated set-and-forget charging, automated, and remote loudspeakers
- The ability to add additional sensor packages or other capabilities later

As the pilot project planning nears implementation, Jensen staff will be invited to a kickoff meeting to be introduced to Spot and the aerial drone. The pilot project will assess the functionality of robotic technology during off-peak hours, nights, and weekends, to maintain a higher safety buffer when limited staff is on site.



**Securitas is piloting a robotic patrol dog at Jensen WTP as part of potential new contract guard service option**

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

## Union Station Headquarters (USHQ) Building Courtyard Security Enhancements

We are pleased to announce the completion of our extensive security enhancement project for the USHQ Building Courtyard. As part of our ongoing commitment to ensure a safe and secure environment, the USHQ Courtyard is now enclosed with a wrought iron fence designed to match the historical California architecture of Union Station and equipped with gates to facilitate secure access for all employees.



**New Metropolitan Headquarters Building Courtyard Security Enhancements**

## Emergency Management Program Update

The Metropolitan Duty Officers were engaged this past month monitoring and responding to multiple incidents on or near Metropolitan property. The Duty Officers provide 24-hour coverage of the Metropolitan Emergency Operations Center (EOC), assess threats, and respond to immediate emergencies. Overall, during the month there were six wildfires, two earthquakes, a potential feeder leak, and a worldwide IT outage that potentially affected Metropolitan operations.

Of the six fires in Metropolitan's area, the Tin Fire spread toward Lake Mathews on July 20, causing minor damage to the Administration building on site. There were no injuries, and staff monitored the area to ensure that the fire didn't re-ignite.



**Tin Fire at Lake Mathews Administration Building**



# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

Fire officials used the Valley Wide Recreation Area and Diamond Valley Lake parking lot as their Incident Command Post for the Nixon Fire that burned near the border of Riverside and San Diego Counties.

The recent earthquake activity this month included the Lamont Earthquake near the State Water Project, the South Pasadena Earthquake near Garvey Reservoir and Headquarters, and Barstow Earthquake. Staff reached out to the Department of Water Resources and coordinated with Metropolitan C&D staff to confirm that no damage was caused by these earthquakes.

Staff conducted an official State EOC course for EOC staff at the Eagle Rock facility. The eight-hour course focused on the skills necessary to work in the EOC Planning and Intelligence Section during an emergency.

Staff also supported the Security Management Unit by setting up a mobile command post during the employee appreciation picnic at Whittier Narrows Park. This command post provided a central point for Security personnel to coordinate, as well as providing a positive field exercise to test mobile response and communications capabilities.



Emergency Management command vehicle supporting Security Command Post

## Project Highlights

### Safety, Regulatory, and Training

#### SRT Health & Safety Programs

##### Executive Safety Committee

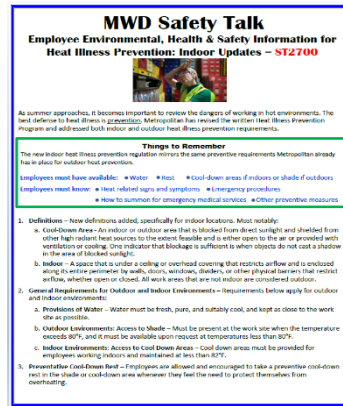
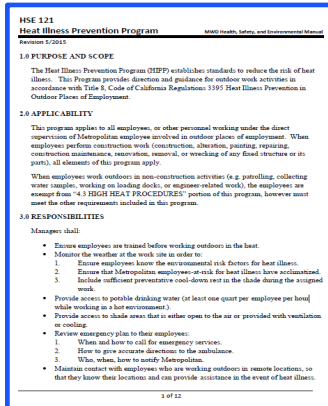
On July 29, 2024, the inaugural Executive Safety Committee (ESC) meeting was held with the National Safety Council (NSC) in attendance. The ESC's goal is to advance safety performance improvements and provide executive level decisions on safety priorities, resource allocation, and initiatives affecting Metropolitan business operations. The ESC reviewed and discussed the valuable and constructive feedback provided by the participants of the Focus Groups and approved the decision to amend the Safety Vision and Guiding Principles. These updates strengthen the safety vision aspirations by using unifying language and eliminating terminology unfamiliar to the current workforce.

In upcoming ESC meetings, Executives will be focusing on a Safety Recognition Program to encourage employee participation in safety activities and safety leadership training for management at all levels. These priorities are from the 2022 NSC Safety Culture Assessment.

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

## Heat Illness Prevention Program

The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal-OSHA) put into effect the new indoor heat illness prevention regulations. Health and Safety (H&S) incorporated the indoor regulation requirements into the existing outdoor heat illness prevention program and developed a Safety Talk training to emphasize the similarities of control measures between the new indoor and previous outdoor heat illness prevention program.



## Heat Illness Prevention Program and Safety Talk

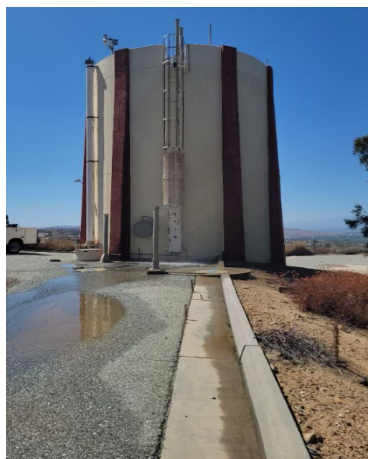
## Asbestos Management

A safety training was conducted for the Engineering Services Group (ESG), Construction Management Unit on the Asbestos Abatement Field Inspection Checklist. The training covered the difference between various asbestos and non-asbestos containing and the suspect asbestos materials; asbestos abatement compliance requirements; and common violations a regulatory inspector is likely to cite. This is the first in a series of training topics H&S will be conducting to ESG.

## SRT Environmental Programs

### Emergency Dewatering

Staff responded to an unplanned release of untreated Colorado River Aqueduct water from the Corona Power Plant and investigated the water release downstream, which confirmed that the water percolated into the ground. The water release had no effects on downstream waterbodies, and staff notified the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board.



View of Corona Tower



View of end of flow path with percolation

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

## **Hazardous Materials – Intake Temporary Bleach Skid**

Staff worked with ESG to complete a visual inspection, incorporate the bleach vendor's recommendations, and verify readiness of the 150-gallon bleach system before making the first delivery. They also discussed additional recommendations on safe delivery, operations, and CERS hazmat inventory and map updates.

## **Air Quality – Plasma Arc Cutting**

Staff visited the La Verne Manufacturing Services Unit (MSU) Shop Upgrade project to check on the installation of the new Plasma Arc Cutting (PAC) system and discussed potential new South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) requirements with MSU staff. Although installation is anticipated to be completed in 2025, a proposed new rule may require the system to have an additional emissions control device by 2039. Staff has had several one-on-one meetings with SCAQMD to discuss the impacts and challenges of the proposed requirements. The tentative adoption for the rule is November 2024.



**New Plasma Arc Cutting System Installation In-Progress**

## **SRT Apprenticeship Programs**

SRT Apprenticeship Programs prepare apprentices to become certified mechanics and electricians responsible for maintaining Metropolitan's water treatment and distribution systems. This month, the electrical classroom was relocated to the new Apprenticeship Training Center. The electricians from the Class of 2026 and 2027 will now attend classes at the new location.



**Electrical Apprentices working on lab projects at the new classroom**



# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

The Water Education Team recognized Apprenticeship for supporting their outreach efforts. The team aims to enhance students' understanding of water conservation, stewardship, and sustainability. Apprenticeship partnering with this team contributes to workforce development by conducting field trips and workshops and inspires the next generation to pursue apprenticeship opportunities.



**Certificates of appreciation from the Water Education Team**

## **SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs**

This month, SRT Safety and Technical Training held an initial Systems Operating Orders Manual (SOOM): High-Voltage Switching for In Town at the Weymouth Treatment Plant, where the class met for 64 hours throughout the month. This training provides instruction on the proper techniques and procedures necessary to prepare, review, approve, and perform safe isolation of high-voltage systems in-town. Upon completion of this initial course and a practical exercise, a 16-hour refresher annually is required to maintain SOOM certification.

Additionally, SRT Safety and Technical training staff delivered two sessions of SOOM: High-Voltage Switching for Desert. This 16-hour annual refresher training for SOOM provides instruction on the proper techniques and procedures necessary to prepare, review, approve, and perform safe isolation of high-voltage systems in the Desert.