



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

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

### • OSSP Monthly Activities for September 2024

#### Summary

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

- Security and Emergency Management
  - Security and Emergency Response
  - Emergency Management Program Update
- Safety, Regulatory, and Training
  - 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 September 2024

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

## Key Activities Report for September 2024

### Project Highlights

#### Security and Emergency Management

#### Security and Emergency Response

##### Metropolitan Security joins WaterISAC Exercise Scenario Working Group

The Water Information Sharing and Analysis Center (WaterISAC) is a private, non-profit organization authorized by Congress with the fundamental purpose of providing information necessary to secure water systems and ensure continuous utility operations in the face of all hazards. WaterISAC is currently the only centralized, real-time information resource of its kind to support the water sector's response to domestic and international threats, incidents, and natural disasters.

Metropolitan's Security and Emergency Management Unit was recently invited to join WaterISAC's Scenario Working Group to develop an in-person, tabletop security exercise. Over the next three months, the group will meet virtually multiple times to develop the event scenario, create related exercise materials, and assist with programming - specifically, appropriate speakers and topics for the threat briefings and a roundtable discussion.

The exercise, to be held in December at a major water treatment facility on the East Coast, will be a full day event attended by 50-75 participants from the FBI, state partners, and leaders from the water and wastewater sector. The program will tentatively consist of 1-2 short threat briefings, a centerpiece discussion-based tabletop exercise, and a post-exercise roundtable discussion. The notes from the centerpiece exercise will be turned into a relevant product that can be shared more broadly with all WaterISAC members.



**Metropolitan Security assists WaterISAC to develop national tabletop security exercise scenario for water sector**

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

## Emergency Management Program Update

Staff conducted an official state level training for members of Metropolitan's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Management Section on August 23 and September 6 at the Eagle Rock facility. The course focused on skills necessary to manage a district-wide emergency response.



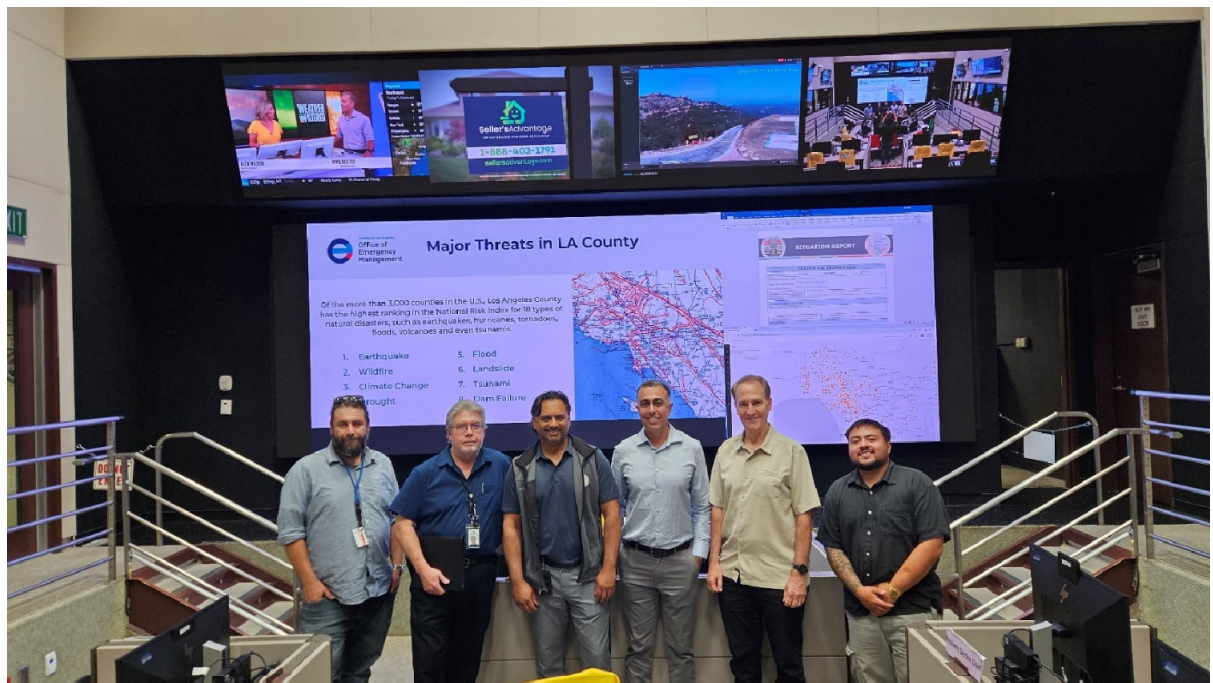
### EOC Training at the Eagle Rock facility

From August 26 through August 29, the Water Quality Incident Command Post team participated in a multi-agency functional emergency exercise with the Western Laboratory Alliance (WLA)/Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This exercise focused on the joint response to regional water contamination event.

Staff presented an update on the Emergency Management Program to the Engineering, Operations and Technology Committee of the Metropolitan Board of Directors on September 9.

On August 27, the directors of Metropolitan's EOC toured the Los Angeles County Fire Department Command and Control Center (dispatch) and the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to learn more about how Metropolitan coordinates with first responders and the county during a disaster.

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

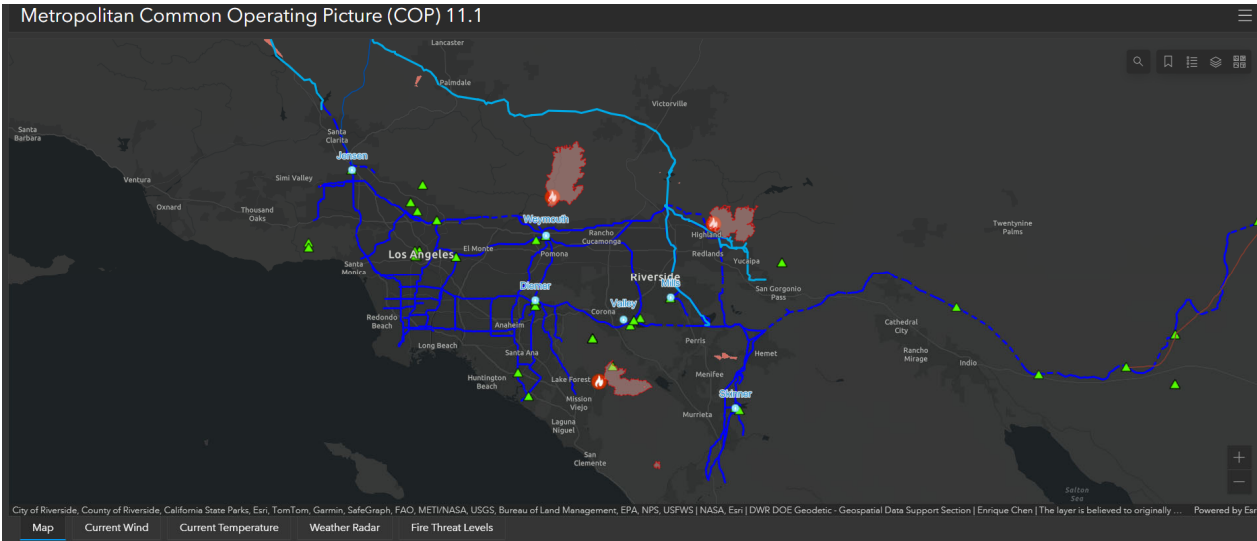


**Tour of the Los Angeles County Fire Department Command and Control Center (dispatch) and the County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

Starting on September 6 and into the following week, staff monitored numerous wildfires in Metropolitan's service area. The Line, Bridge and Airport Fires burned in three different counties and potentially threatened different parts of Metropolitan's system, as well as some Member Agencies and the Department of Water Resources.

Staff interacted with various emergency management officials during this time and coordinated with Metropolitan's Safety staff to send alerts to all-employees about unhealthy air quality due to smoke throughout the region. Staff was ready to respond to field command posts and activate the Metropolitan EOC, if necessary.



## Wildfires in Metropolitan's service area



**Staff was ready to respond to field command posts and activate the Metropolitan EOC**

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

## Project Highlights

### Safety, Regulatory, and Training

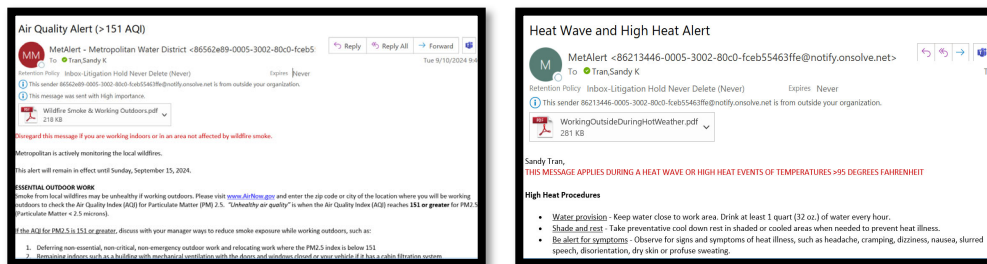
#### SRT Health & Safety Programs

##### National Safety Council (NSC)

Staff facilitated a Labor/Management meeting with NSC to provide updates on safety and workplace culture initiatives, review the finalized Safety Vision and Guiding Principles, and give an overview of the new Executive Safety Committee. Additionally, NSC provided AFSCME and SRT staff an overview of Human and Organizational Performance (HOP) training. HOP training aims to improve safety and operational efficiency through greater worker contributions, increased trust, and continued learning and improvement.

##### Safety (“Met”) Alerts

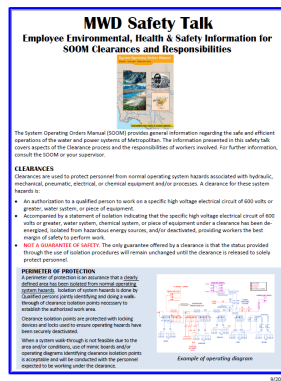
Standardized templates were developed for various safety-related employee alerts (Met Alerts) that are communicated to all employees via text and emails. This month, Met Alerts were issued for COVID-19 Exposure, Heat Wave and High Heat Events, and Wildfire Smoke Exposure for Outdoors.



Examples of Email Met Alerts

##### Safety Talks

A new Safety Talk on System Operating Orders Manual (SOOM) Clearances and Responsibilities was posted. The Safety Talk provides overview information on SOOM clearances, Clearance Issuer responsibilities, Clearance Holder responsibilities, and Worker responsibilities.



Safety Talk: SOOM Clearances and Responsibilities

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

## SRT Environmental Programs

The City of Riverside Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit for the Mills facility was finalized. A positive outcome of recent inspections and negotiations with the city is the utilization of a sample location allowing a composite sampling device which will alleviate staff time previously spent collecting samples. Additionally, the SCADA team has been assisting to properly record the sewer discharges with improved tools to retrieve the data.

### Water Deliveries

The California Department of Fish & Wildlife approved a Raw Water Discharge Plan for planned water deliveries to the Lopez Spreading Grounds. Metropolitan submitted the plan on behalf of the City of Burbank and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power due to our extensive experience in managing quagga mussels. Member agencies are responsible for ensuring there are no discharges to Waters of the United States and that all water percolates into the spreading grounds. Metropolitan will provide quagga sampling, if needed.

### Hazardous Materials

Staff supported clean-up and disposal of abandoned waste at a Metropolitan service road near Lake Mathews. The abandoned waste consisted of munition, large home appliances, and various debris. Staff also supported an alum tank pumpout at the Weymouth facility in preparation for maintenance and inspection activities.



**Abandoned waste before and after clean-up**

### Air Quality

Staff amended the Stationary Refrigerant Systems Procedure, HSE 204.106 to identify refrigerants with lower global warming potential (GWP) required by the California Air Resources Board for air conditioning and process chiller systems that are new or will undergo extensive maintenance or replacement work. The compliant refrigerants support Metropolitan's Climate Action Plan.



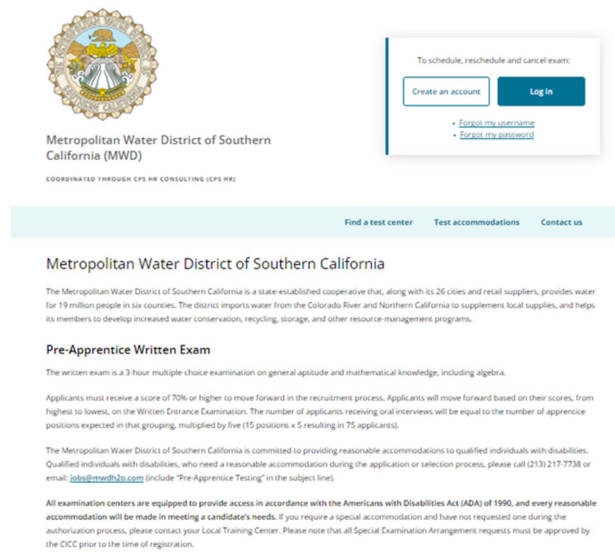
**Examples of Stationary Refrigerant Systems that may be subject to the lower GWP refrigerants  
(L:Jensen; R:OC-88)**

# Office of Safety, Security & Protection

## 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 Class of 2027 apprentices completed written and practical exams. Electricians were tested on circuits and wiring, and the practical exam required them to create circuit drawings and test the circuits using Amatrol trainers. Mechanics were tested on rigging, pneumatics, and hydraulic systems and the practical exam consisted of exercises requiring apprentices to determine acceptable rigging to lift loads of varying weights. Practical exams are designed to test apprentices' knowledge and ensure safe procedures are followed while performing assigned tasks. Points were deducted for failing to follow safety protocols and/or improper use of personal protective equipment.

Recruitment of the new class of apprentices continued to progress this month. Applicants who met minimum qualifications received a link to self-schedule written testing at a Pearson Vue facility. Self-scheduling allowed candidates to select the time and test location to best suit their schedules. Next month, seventy-five of the top scoring candidates will be invited to interviews and physical abilities testing.



The screenshot shows the Pearson Vue candidate page for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). At the top left is the MWD logo, which includes a circular seal with a sun, water, and mountains, and the text 'Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)' and 'COORDINATED THROUGH CPE HR CONSULTING (CPE HR)'. To the right is a login box with the heading 'To schedule, reschedule and cancel exam:' and buttons for 'Create an account' and 'Log in'. Below the login box are links for 'Forgot my username' and 'Forgot my password'. The navigation bar contains links for 'Find a test center', 'Test accommodations', and 'Contact us'. The main content area is titled 'Metropolitan Water District of Southern California' and contains a paragraph about the MWD, a section for the 'Pre-Apprentice Written Exam' with details about the exam and scoring, and a section for accommodations with contact information for the local training center.

### Pearson Vue candidate page for self-scheduling.

## SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

Staff facilitated the System Operations Review Committee (SORC) meeting. SORC meets periodically to review and update the SOOM, which guides the safe and efficient operation of the water and power systems at Metropolitan. Safety & Technical Training staff delivered courses in SOOM procedures. This training covers regulatory requirements and control procedures for hazardous energy. Attendees are certified through an initial two-week course and maintain certification by attending a two-day annual refresher course.

Staff delivered 44 classes to 345 employees covering 20 different topics and continued to meet with different work groups Metropolitan-wide to review employee training plans and assist managers with ensuring their staff are enrolled in the correct certification programs.