



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

• OSSP Monthly Activities for June 2025

Summary

This monthly report provides a summary of OSSP activities for June 2025 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 June 2025

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Key Activities Report for June 2025

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Management

Security and Emergency Response

Security Response to Civil Unrest – June 2025

When civil protests in early June escalated in size and intensity—particularly around the detention center across from Metropolitan’s Union Station Headquarters (USHQ) building—the Security and Emergency Management Unit (SEMU) quickly activated its Civil Unrest Plan. In response to the events that began Friday, June 6, and intensified over that weekend, Metropolitan took swift, proactive measures to protect its staff and facilities, including:

- Recommending telework for USHQ staff the following week to reduce potential confrontations during commutes
- Activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Level III to manage cross-department coordination
- Increasing on-site security presence, including deployment of off-duty law enforcement officers
- Restricting vehicle and pedestrian access and issuing a “shelter in place” directive
- Coordinating closely with local law enforcement and intelligence agencies for real-time situational awareness
- Installing temporary physical barriers to reinforce building fronts
- Activating rooftop security cameras for continuous monitoring
- Providing daily intelligence briefings to executive leadership
- Issuing personal safety guidance to employees during periods of unrest
- Relocating key resources to the Weymouth facility to support an alternate Board meeting location

A standout tool during this emergency was the newly acquired Everbridge Signal, part of SEMU’s mass communication and emergency management platform. This Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) tool aggregates and analyzes information from public online sources—including websites, blogs, news outlets, and social media—in real time.

Unlike traditional intelligence channels, which require filtering, validation, and formal dissemination, Everbridge Signal delivered timely and actionable insights directly to our team. It filled a critical gap by providing intelligence faster than local, state, or federal law enforcement partners could deliver. Given the speed and volatility of events occurring directly in front of USHQ, the tool proved to be an invaluable asset—accurate, relevant, and responsive to our immediate operational needs. It was a clear return on investment.

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**Due to the proximity of protests near USHQ,
lower-level doors and windows were boarded up**

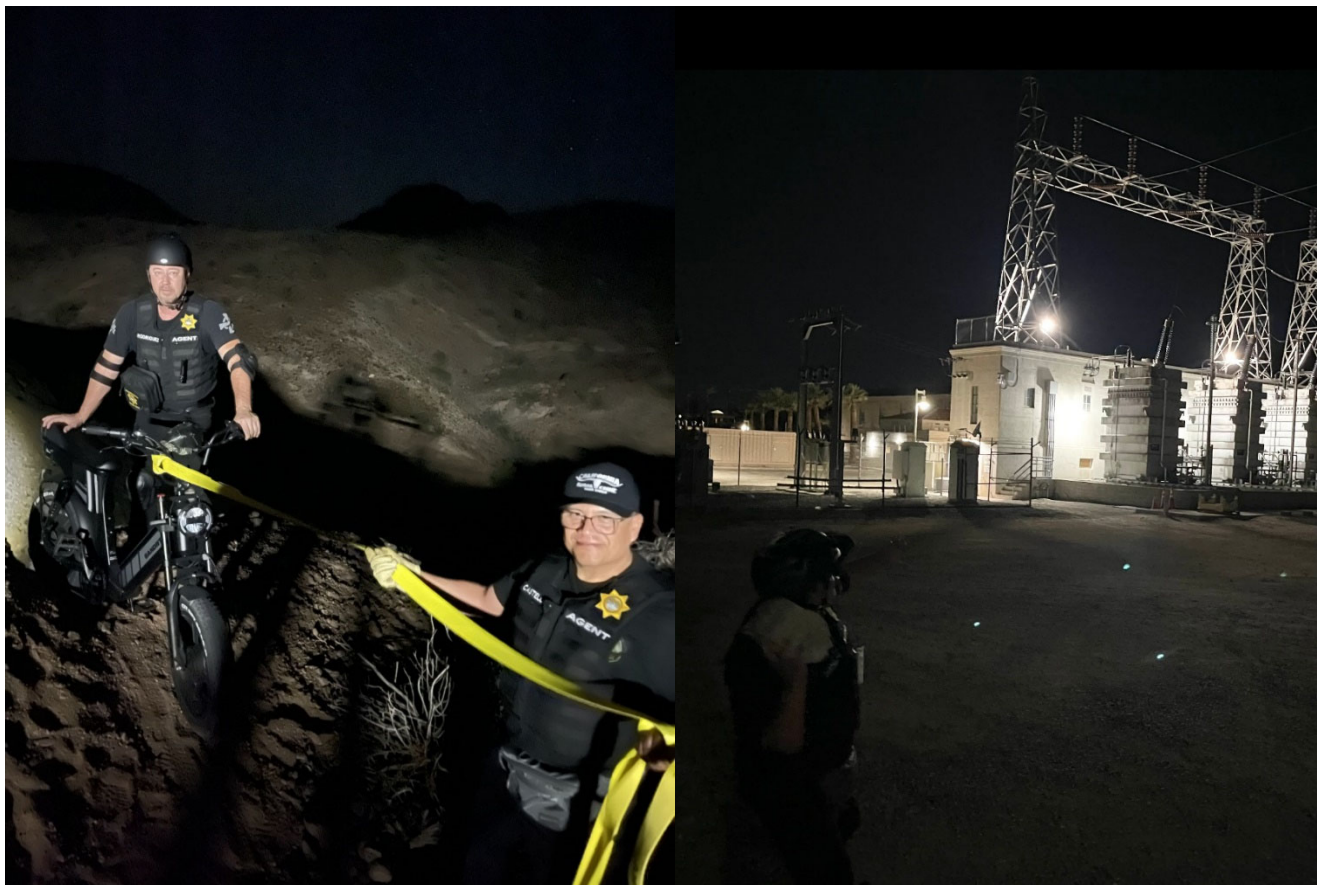
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Red Team Security Testing

Red team testing is typically used in the security and defense industry to benchmark an organization's exploitable vulnerabilities in a physical security system. Typically the tests including attempting to gain access to key assets in an undetected manner through stealth and other clandestine means. A team of three Metropolitan security specialists recently conducted a series of highly planned, red team penetration tests of physical security at multiple remote facilities. They entered the facilities during periods of darkness, frequently using various transportation methods and techniques to sneak into critical facilities without detection.

The tests were safely conducted to evaluate Metropolitan's ability to detect, prevent, and respond to advanced threats and to ultimately improve overall security resilience of key facilities through follow-on Capital Security Projects. While the exact results are confidential, many known vulnerabilities were validated and documented by the team using night photography, GPS tracking, and digital video.

Once all security capital projects have been completed, a series of red team exercises (following the same notional threat attack scenarios) will be repeated to ensure quality control and proof of function of various newly replaced electronic security systems, video surveillance, and technical security devices.



Metropolitan Special Agents conduct red team night tests at critical remote facilities via Ebike

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Emergency Management Program Update

Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activities over the June 7-8 weekend led to multiple large, and at times violent, protests in the downtown Los Angeles area, very close to Metropolitan's USHQ building. In response to the protests and civil unrest, Metropolitan's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated on June 8.

For safety reasons, the General Manager ordered the closure of the USHQ building and instructed all USHQ employees to work remotely during the following week. The Metropolitan EOC coordinated multiple response activities such as boarding up the building, increasing security personnel as necessary, and sending Metropolitan Agency Representatives to the Los Angeles City and Los Angeles County EOCs to gather information.



Picture of Metropolitan Headquarters building, on the right, from the Los Angeles City EOC parking lot

On May 15, staff spoke at the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure's Spring 2025 Workshop in Los Angeles. Emergency Management staff presented information to an international audience on Metropolitan's EOC activation and response to the destructive wildfires in January 2025.



Staff presenting at the Institute of Sustainable Infrastructure's Spring 2025 Workshop

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On May 20, staff completed FEMA Advanced Incident Command System (ICS) course at the Ontario Fire Department Training facility. The two-day course covered the skills and materials necessary to manage complex, multi-jurisdictional incidents. These skills are especially valuable at this time given the fluid nature of emergencies Metropolitan faces in the future.

On June 3, staff participated in Skinner's annual Safety Fair. This special event highlighted safety best practices for Skinner staff. There were demonstrations from Metropolitan's drone and Emergency Management programs, as well as vendor displays.



Skinner Safety Fair


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SRT Environmental Programs

After more than two years of negotiating with the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), the rule amendment allowing Metropolitan to use liquid denatured alcohol on clean critical water treatment processes was formally approved at the SCAQMD Governing Board meeting on June 6. The Environmental team provided public comment in support of this rule amendment, and staff thanked SCAQMD for their commitment to offering practical solutions that allow public water agencies to maintain their equipment in accordance with manufacturer requirements.

The team completed five hazardous waste pick-ups at various facilities and coordinated dewatering notices for San Diego Pipeline 4 and Garvey Reservoir. The annual Meter Calibration Report for Weymouth's industrial wastewater discharge meter was submitted to the Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) in accordance with the permit conditions.

As summer arrives with increased HVAC use, staff issued one new HSE Bulletin on Air Quality Requirements for Refrigeration Systems to emphasize leak check requirements, use of refrigerant recovery equipment, and limits on the Global Warming Potential (GWP) in refrigerant for new systems.



Air Quality Bulletin

Air Quality Requirements for Refrigeration Systems

Safety, Regulatory and Training Section (SRT)

May 2025

SCOPE

This bulletin highlights existing requirements for the purchase, installation, servicing, repair, or disposal of Refrigeration Systems to meet air quality requirements. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) regulation for the Refrigerant Management Program and Prohibitions of Use of Certain Hydrofluorocarbons in Stationary Refrigeration, Air-conditioning and other End-Use (RMP) under CCR Title 17 §95371-95398 sets limits on the use of high Global Warming Potential (GWP) refrigerants and leak inspection.

NEW INSTALLATIONS



The GWP of refrigerant for "new" units, regardless of size or refrigerant capacity, must not exceed the limit based on equipment type, end-use, or operating temperature for each effective date. However, if the cumulative replacement of components within any three years exceeds 50 percent of the capital cost to replace the entire refrigeration system, the equipment is now defined as "new" and can no longer use a refrigerant exceeding the GWP limit.



The following is a list of common equipment utilized by Metropolitan:

General End Use	Specific End Use	GWP Limit	Effective Date
Air Conditioning Equipment	Room/Wall/Window, new non-residential	750 or lower	1/1/2023
	Variable Refrigerant Flow system	750 or lower	1/1/2026
Chillers	Air Conditioning, Industrial Process Refrigeration (temp > +35° F)	750 or lower	1/1/2024
	Industrial Process Refrigeration (temp ≤ +35°)	1500 or lower	1/1/2024
	Industrial Process Refrigeration (temp ≤ +35°)	2,500 or lower	1/1/2024
Refrigeration (New Buildings)	Industrial Process Refrigeration, excluding chillers (> 50 lbs. refrigerant)	150 or lower	1/1/2022
Refrigeration (Existing Buildings)	Industrial Process Refrigeration, excluding chillers (> 50 lbs. refrigerant)	2,500 or lower	1/1/2023

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Technicians must have a current, valid and applicable U.S. EPA technician certificate. Contractor technicians must also have one of the following appropriate California contractor's licenses:
 - C-30-Refrigeration Contractor
 - C-30-Warm Air Heating, Ventilating, and Refrigeration Contractor
- Annual Leak inspections should be performed on all systems using an approved method.
- Annual audit and calibration of Automatic Leak Detection Systems (ALDS), as applicable.
- Repair leaks within 14 calendar days of detection, and do not add refrigerant to any appliance with a known leak.
- Certified, self contained recovery equipment must be on site for proper recovery, recycling or reclamation of refrigerant. Equipment should be leak checked every 6 months.
- Maintain records and reports for the annual leak inspection, audit and repair work. Refer to [Title 17, Section 95371.106](#) for a complete list of requirements and an example log form.





For additional questions, contact Kiersten Mettke (x77187), Anna Yeutter (x70765) or Josh Leggett (x78889) or email AQRTeam@metwater.com

New HSE Bulletin

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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 final exams for their fourth period of instruction. The fifth period is scheduled to begin at the end of July. Staff finalized recruitment efforts and began preparations for onboarding new apprentices. The first class of 15 is slated for hire in August, followed by a second class of 15 to be hired toward the end of the year.

Also, Apprentice staff partnered with Engineering to visit the grand opening of the Apprentice and Journeyman (A&J) Training Trust Center in El Monte on June 10. This center delivers training to District Council 16 for the advancement and growth of piping professionals. Staff toured the newly opened facilities and observed a regional apprentice competition to get ideas on designing Metropolitan's future apprentice training center and further understand their training programs for both apprentices and journey-level workers.



Metropolitan staff (L to R) Tedman Tran, Gonzalo Barriga, April Fiedler Hall, and Doaa Aboul-Hosn with Jerry Elliot (Director of Trade Jurisdiction Southern California Pipe Trades District Council No. 16) at the A&J Training Trust Center

SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

The team partnered with Operations to implement North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) training, reinforcing Metropolitan's commitment to protecting critical infrastructure. NERC is an international regulatory authority tasked with ensuring the reliability and security of high-voltage power systems across North America. This training enhances staff awareness of general cybersecurity principles while addressing specific concepts relevant to Metropolitan CRA facilities with Bulk Electric System (BES) cyber assets. Participants gain a broader understanding of cybersecurity risks, their impacts on BES cyber systems, and industry best practices for protecting these systems in alignment with NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Standards.