



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT  
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# Board Report

## Safety, Security, and Protection

### • Safety, Security, and Protection Monthly Activities for February 2024

#### Summary

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This monthly report for the Safety, Security, and Protection Group provides a summary of activities for February 2024 in the following key areas:

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

#### Purpose

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Informational by the Safety, Security, and Protection Group's on a summary of key activities for the month of February 2024.

#### Attachments

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Attachment 1: Detailed Report – Safety, Security, and Protection Monthly Activities for February 2024

## Safety, Security and Protection

### Project Highlights

#### Security and Emergency Management

##### Security and Emergency Response

Southern California is experiencing a record amount of metal theft. Streetlights, traffic signal lights, and other critical safety devices are being disabled, placing the public at risk. Metropolitan Security, Western Region Conveyance and Distribution, and Control Systems staff are diligently working together to mitigate ongoing metal, battery, and power thefts from Automated Meter Reader (AMR) meter cabinets, which are in high-risk areas along drinking water distribution lines.

The current action plan includes:

- Ordering seven stainless-steel, high-security cabinets from Security's metal fabricating vendor.
- Informing the Metropolitan Change Control Board of any new specification changes to AMR cabinet physical security standards and master specifications.
- Working with Real Property Management to engage right-of-way stakeholders, leases, landowners, and local government entities to permanently evict and remove encampments encroaching on Metropolitan fee property.
- Encouraging Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in the area by limbing trees to 6 feet and reducing ground cover to 12 inches, as well as incorporating cacti and other defensive, water-efficient, native plants.
- Installing native rock boulders to discourage illegal camping and trespass.
- Installing high-security fencing and PC 602 No Trespass signage.



Reinforced AMR meter cabinets eliminate monitoring outages due to metal, power, and UPS battery thefts

# Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

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## Emergency Management Program Update

The Emergency Management Program staff was busy this month with activities ranging from real-world responses to joint agency trainings. Staff continued to run exercises for Metropolitan's Incident Command Posts (ICPs) so that they remain ready to respond various emergencies across the district. They also trained with local fire departments during the Upper Feeder Shutdown and at a regular hazardous material response training at the Skinner Plant. Staff conducted annual call-down drills for Dam Emergency Action Plans that are coming up on their one-year anniversaries.

Finally, staff also responded to a multiple "atmospheric river" storms that crashed into Southern California. Metropolitan's Duty Officer participated in numerous weather update meetings and closely monitored the storm progress.



Staff trained with local fire departments during the Upper Feeder Shutdown

# Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

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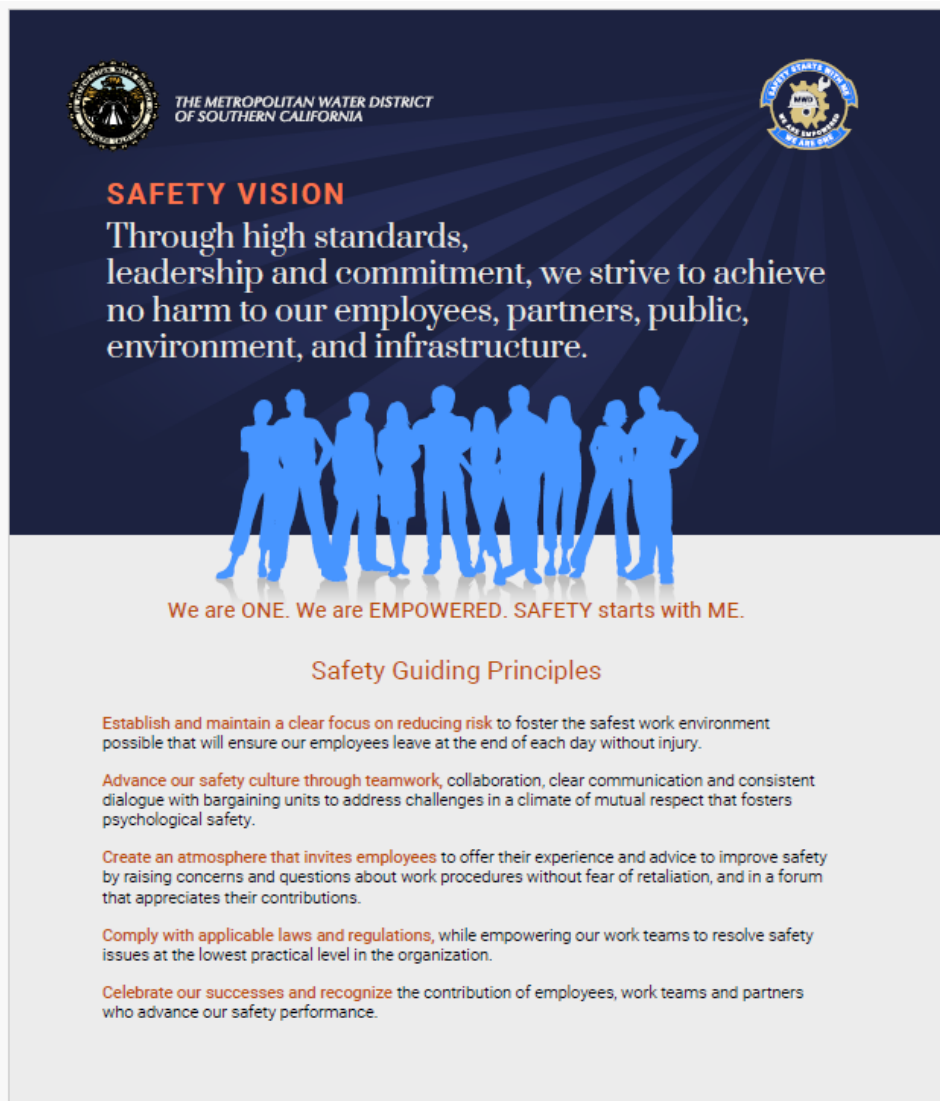
## Project Highlights

### Safety, Regulatory, and Training

#### SRT Health & Safety Programs

##### National Safety Council (NSC) Initiative

A memorandum from the General Manager was issued to all employees to introduce Metropolitan's new Safety Vision and Guiding Principles. The setting of safety vision and guiding principles is one of the top priorities identified by NSC to improve safety culture. Staff scheduled focus group sessions with various Metropolitan employees, management, and bargaining units to discuss the vision and principles and how they contribute to the overall improvement of safety.



Safety Vision and Guiding Principles Flyer



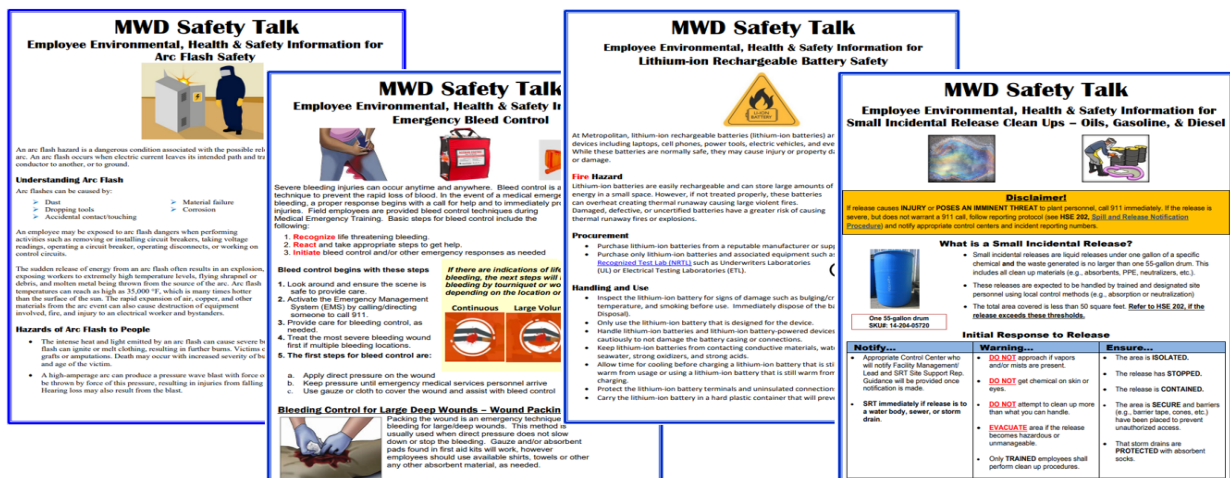
# Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

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## Safety Communication

Staff developed four new Safety Talks to address topics recently identified relevant to applicable work teams.

1. **Arc Flash Safety** provides information on arc flash hazards, protection against arc flash and assessing risks by understanding arc flash labels.
2. **Emergency Bleed Control** provides information on how to recognize life-threatening bleeding, react, take appropriate steps, and initiate bleed control techniques.
3. **Lithium-ion Rechargeable Battery Safety** provides information to properly handle, use, charge, store, and dispose of lithium-ion rechargeable batteries.
4. **Small Incident Release Clean Ups of Oil, Gasoline, and Diesel** describes how to respond to small incident releases involving oils, gasoline, and diesel.



## New MWD Safety Talks

## SRT Environmental Programs

Staff facilitated a HAZWOPER/Incident Command Refresher Training with the Riverside County Fire Department, CalFire, and Riverside County of Department of Environmental Health Responders at the R.A. Skinner Water Treatment Plant. This is an enhancement to the annual Chemical Responder training, which included integrated incident command field post training and emergency response exercises.

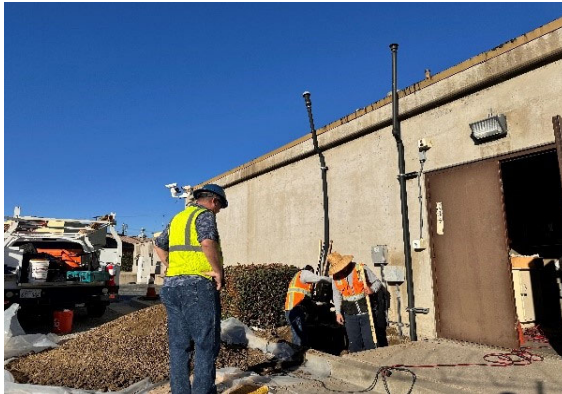


## Skinner HAZWOPER/Incident Command Training Drill

# Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

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Repairs to the emergency generator fuel and vent lines at Rio Hondo Hydroelectric Plant were completed. The Underground Storage Tank (UST) contractor excavated concrete and installed two new transition sumps to resolve secondary containment failures that were previously discovered during testing. The contractor performed the repairs ahead of schedule and the site passed testing.



**Rio Hondo Fuel and Vent Lines during repair (left) and after repair (right)**

A new air quality permit was issued by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for the installation of the MSU Shop Plasma/Oxy-Fuel Cutting system with a water table. This permit required extensive work with SCAQMD for over the last two years to obtain practical permit conditions to allow operational flexibility.



**Installation site for the new MSU Shop Plasma/Oxy-Fuel Cutting System**

Over the past month, the Environmental Program Support team submitted the Biennial Reports to the Department of Toxic Substances Control for all of Metropolitan's 2023 federally regulated (RCRA) hazardous waste large quantity generator (LQG) sites and 21 air quality compliance reports for permitted engines, equipment, coatings activities, refrigerant systems, and gasoline dispensing stations. All air quality reports confirmed compliant operations in 2023.



# Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

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## SRT Apprenticeship

The 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 2027 continued their second academic period. The electrical apprentices were introduced to the National Fire Protection Agency 70E publication, which sets standards for electrical safety in the workplace. This publication governs employees who work on or near exposed energized electrical conductors or circuit parts. Meanwhile, the mechanical apprentices learned about project layout, torch cutting, and welding. Augmented welders are used during the welding introduction to provide immediate assessment and remedial measures, ensuring that safety is not compromised. Finally, the Class of 2026 and desert electrical cross-training participants continued studying motor controls and transformers.



Mechanical apprentice using augmented welder (top) and Electrical apprentice using AC/DC trainer (bottom)

# Water Resources, Engineering and Safety

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## **SRT Safety and Technical Training**

Safety & Technical Training recently introduced site visits as part of the Advanced SOOM Certification course curriculum. These facility visits incorporate hands-on training into the certification process. This month, Advanced Mechanical Valving and Advanced Electrical Switching classes visited Lake Mathews Reservoir and Etiwanda Hydroelectric Powerplant. Trainees used operating diagrams to identify valves and switches and answered questions on how to use the valve or switch for lockout purposes, identify all power sources, and determine the current status of the equipment. Additional field site locations include Live Oak Reservoir and San Dimas Hydroelectric Powerplant.



### **Hands-on training at Etiwanda Hydroelectric Powerplant**

Over the past month, the Safety and Technical Training team conducted a total of 45 instructor-led classes, covering an extensive range of 30 different topics in safety and environmental training. The training provided benefitted a total of 287 individuals. Additionally, the SRT Site Support staff conducted 101 respirator fit tests and respirator safety training classes.