



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

• OSSP Monthly Activities for October 2024

Summary

This monthly report provides a summary of OSSP activities for October 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 October 2024

Office of Safety, Security & Protection

Key Activities Report for October 2024

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Management

Security and Emergency Response

Pure Water Workplace Violence Potential Hazard Checklist

Metropolitan Security Specialists and Safety, Regulatory & Training (SRT) Occupational Safety & Health Specialists conducted a Workplace Violence Potential Hazard Checklist at the Pure Water demonstration facility in Carson as part of California's recent Senate Bill 553 Workplace Violence Prevention, which went into effect July 1, 2024. The demonstration facility is located at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts' (Sanitation Districts) A.K. Warren Resource Facility.

The assessment included an in-person site visit and job walk to identify deficient physical security measures, procedural violations, or crime prevention gaps. Examples of potential hazards might include:

- Visitors walking on facilities without visitor badges and an employee escort
- Inadequate exterior lighting in parking lots, stairwells, building entrances, and walkways
- No security surveillance systems (cameras, door alarms, and card readers)
- Overgrown vegetation that could conceal intruders, criminal trespassers, or attackers
- Lack of signage, posted emergency phone numbers

Security Specialists then worked collaboratively to provide a list of recommended control measures to mitigate these vulnerabilities to reduce potential violence risks to staff, vendors, and visitors in the workplace. A number of these measures will be coordinated with the Sanitation Districts as the underlying property owner. Some of these may include:

- Switching exterior lights to LED security bulbs
- Posting additional signage
- Pruning overgrown vegetation and trees to enhance sightlines and eliminate potential hiding spots, following Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles
- Working with outside agencies to address encampment and trespassing issues around Metropolitan facilities
- Adding additional contract security guard coverage
- Upgrading critical security surveillance systems through Metropolitan Capital Improvement Projects



Metropolitan Security and SRT Occupational Safety & Health Specialists assess potential Workplace Violence hazards

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Drone Detection Pilot Program

With ongoing intelligence analysis and a comprehensive understanding of both global and local security trends, we are now confident that drones will play an increasingly significant role in future threats. It is no longer a question of *whether* a drone attack on critical infrastructure will occur, but *when*.

In response, the Security and Emergency Management Unit has launched a pilot program for drone detection. A dedicated drone radar system has been deployed at one of our facilities to monitor for unauthorized drone activity. As part of this initiative, Metropolitan’s drone unit operators will conduct tests by flying various drones over the facility to assess and “red team” the detection system’s capabilities.

This pilot is the first step in a broader plan aimed at detecting and ultimately intercepting malicious drones that may pose a threat to Metropolitan’s critical infrastructure. By staying ahead of emerging threats and implementing proactive measures, we are continuously working to strengthen the security of our operations and protect Metropolitan’s most vital assets.

Emergency Management Program Update

This was a busy month for the Emergency Management Program. Between September 6 to 30, staff responded to or monitored six wildfires in Metropolitan’s service area, including the Line, Bridge and Airport Fires in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties. Metropolitan staff were embedded in fire command posts and multiple emergency notifications were sent to employees regarding unhealthful air quality due to the fires.



Bridge Fire—Fire Department helicopter drawing water from Live Oak Reservoir



Bridge Fire—View from Weymouth Plant



Airport Fire—View from Diemer Plant

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There were two significant earthquakes in the region as well (Ontario and Malibu). Staff activated patrol runs and monitored for aftershocks to confirm that there was no impact to Metropolitan's safety or operations.

On September 12, staff participated in Southern Californian Edison's (SCE's) Resilient Grid IX exercise, which was a precursor to the 2024 ShakeOut Exercise. Metropolitan is collaborating with SCE to run a functional ShakeOut exercise in mid-October that will include multiple Member Agencies and the Metropolitan Emergency Operations Center (EOC).



Resilient Grid IX Tabletop Exercise at Southern California Edison

Metropolitan's EOC management team completed an official California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) EOC Management course in September to prepare for future emergencies.



Members of Metropolitan's EOC Management Team taking Cal OES training

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Staff also participated in a joint coordination meeting with members of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Southern Field Division at their Pearblossom facility. Afterwards, everyone toured the Pearblossom Pumping Plant.



Metropolitan and DWR staff at the Pearblossom Pumping Plant

Finally, staff completed annual reviews for the Diemer, Copper Basin, and Gene Wash Dam Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and shared updates with plan holders and Cal OES.

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Project Highlights

Safety, Regulatory, and Training

SRT Health & Safety Programs

National Safety Council (NSC)

NSC provided recommendations on the standardization of Metropolitan's safety committee structures and activities and assisted in developing a new HSE 101.5 Safety Committee Procedure. Additionally, the Safety team hosted the Safety Committee Forum meeting where facility safety committee chairs and co-chairs collaborated and shared safety-related suggestions and successes. The new Safety Committee Procedure was presented in this meeting to solicit feedback. Lastly, the Safety team continues to explore other leading and lagging indicators that can be included in the Metropolitan-wide EHS Performance Metrics.

Safety Talks

New Safety Talks were posted on the following topics: Digital Eye Strain Prevention, Compressed Air Safety, Responding to a Regulatory Agency Visit, and Working on Floating Reservoir Covers.

The image displays four safety talk posters arranged in a row. Each poster is titled 'MWD Safety Talk' and covers a different safety topic. The first poster is about Digital Eye Strain Prevention, the second is about Hazards of Cleaning With Compressed Air, the third is about Responding to a Regulatory Agency Visit, and the fourth is about Working On Floating Reservoir Covers. Each poster includes text, images, and icons to illustrate the safety information.

New Safety Talks

SRT Environmental Programs

Industrial Wastewater

A Sewer Capacity Study was submitted to support an increase on the permitted flow rate into the Los Angeles County Sanitation District sewer. This will provide flexibility for increased groundwater removal at Palos Verdes. The new Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit is anticipated to be issued in November.

Hazardous Materials

Staff participated in a Joint Utility Vendor Audit Consortium (JUVAC) meeting hosted by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to discuss various hazardous waste issues and to plan for future audits. JUVAC is a consortium of utilities that conducts joint vendor environmental audits of Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs) and shares audit results with the consortium members.

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Air Quality

Formal comments were submitted to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on Proposed Rule 1445 for Control of Toxic Air Contaminant Emissions from Laser and Plasma Arc Cutting. Staff continues to work with SCAQMD to recognize the adequacy of Metropolitan's existing plasma arc cutters (PACs). The comments highlighted two key provisions: (1) an option to show low health risk from the as-designed PAC at La Verne Fabrication Shop and (2) an exclusion from parametric monitoring for portable PACs used for maintenance and repair.



Partially installed Plasma Arc Cutting System at the La Verne Fabrication Shop

Permitting

Applications were submitted to the Mojave District Air Quality Management District to permit a flexible abrasive blasting system that includes a booth, dust collector, abrasive blaster, and a compressor. The requested permits will support critical infrastructure projects, shutdowns, and maintenance and repair at various locations throughout Gene, Intake, and Iron. In addition, 17 virtual inspections with SCAQMD for registered equipment were completed. All units were deemed to be in-compliance.



Abrasive blasting booth and dust collector to be used at Desert facilities

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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. The written testing for the pre-apprentice recruitment was completed in September. Seventy-five of the top scoring candidates will proceed to panel interviews. Applicants who score 70 percent or more on the interviews will move forward to physical abilities testing, which will take place in early November.

Also, the team partnered with Engineering and the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to facilitate a tour at Diamond Valley Lake for the board chair, several directors, and representatives from the Southern California Pipe Trades training trusts. The tour included an overview of the Apprenticeship Program, the Project Labor Agreement, and outreach initiatives. The tour began with an overview of the programs, followed by demonstrations in the electrical classroom and mechanical shop. The tour concluded with a visit to the Wadsworth Pump Plant. The tour was well received by the participants.



Mechanical shop demonstration during Apprenticeship Program tour

SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

This month, the Safety and Technical Training team facilitated Certified Control Systems Technician (CCST) Level 2 training and testing. CCST Level 2 provides certification for technicians who demonstrate extensive knowledge of control systems, including calibration, maintenance, troubleshooting, repair, administration, and supervision of various control system components. In addition, the team is partnering with Conveyance and Distribution to enhance the On-site Operator training program to support Metropolitan's hydroelectric plants (HEP). This training aims to incorporate a focus on system operations to complement HEP operations. Curriculum review and development are underway, and classes with the new updates are planned for April 2025.