



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

• OSSP Monthly Activities for March 2025

Summary

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

Key Activities Report for March 2025

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Management

Security and Emergency Response

Metropolitan Security Management has strengthened its collaboration with WaterISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) to achieve that goal—sharing lessons learned and proven, cost-effective strategies with other water agencies nationwide.

This partnership focuses on developing and delivering specialized training opportunities for water sector professionals, including a detailed case study on low-cost/no-cost physical security mitigation measures. These measures are designed to help hundreds of water and wastewater agencies prevent commercial burglaries and catalytic converter thefts, which pose a significant risk to large vehicle fleets and their resilience. Given that the average replacement cost of a catalytic converter is \$2,700 and replacements can take weeks, these efforts are especially critical for small and medium-sized water agencies that rely on fleet availability to maintain and repair outages in their distribution and conveyance systems.

Key Lessons Learned:

- Implementing quick, low-cost/no-cost security upgrades to mitigate vulnerabilities effectively
- Documenting security procedures to ensure all staff are informed and compliant
- Conducting routine, on-site, and comprehensive vulnerability assessments at all facilities
- Utilizing a layered security approach to:
 - Reduce the risk of security incidents
 - Enhance detection capabilities
 - Provide barriers to deny or delay potential intruders
 - Support security personnel in responding effectively
- Applying Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles to strengthen security
- Enhancing access control measures and policies to prevent unauthorized access
- Building strong relationships with local law enforcement by inviting them to tour facilities and improve awareness of critical infrastructure vulnerabilities
- Leveraging federal partners, such as Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's Protective Security Advisors, to assess security vulnerabilities and implement effective mitigation strategies
- Reporting incidents to WaterISAC to gain insights, receive expert recommendations, and contribute to broader threat assessments that benefit the entire sector

Additionally, the Security and Emergency Management Unit and WaterISAC are planning to jointly host a focused training session later this summer aimed at equipping water sector professionals with practical strategies to enhance security and resilience.

Through these initiatives, Metropolitan is reinforcing its commitment to security leadership in the water sector, ensuring greater resilience, preparedness, and operational continuity in the face of evolving threats.

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WaterISAC publishes a detailed case study on Metropolitan's low-cost/no-cost physical security mitigation measures

Emergency Management Program Update

Emergency Management Speaking Opportunities

Strengthening partnerships and information sharing are core values of Metropolitan's Emergency Management Program. On February 20, Emergency Management Program staff members participated in two key events in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, reinforcing Metropolitan's commitment to collaboration, information sharing, and strengthening relationships with local, state, and federal partners.

At the California Water Summit, held at Metropolitan's Headquarters in downtown Los Angeles, emergency management delivered a presentation highlighting the critical role of emergency preparedness in ensuring the resilience of water infrastructure. Insights were shared on realistic disaster response expectations and the importance of coordination between agencies. The event brought together representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other key leaders in security and emergency management, fostering stronger partnerships and information exchange.



Emergency Management Program Manager Ian Whyte at the California Water Summit

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Later that day, Metropolitan's emergency management staff joined a panel at the Sustainable Communities: Solutions in Resiliency Conference at the University of California, Irvine. The discussion focused on lessons learned from the January 2025 wildfires in Los Angeles County and broader regional challenges, including climate readiness, housing availability, resilience to environmental disruptions, and fire safety. Emergency management's participation reinforced Metropolitan's role as a regional leader in emergency management and strengthened ties with state and local agencies working toward shared resiliency goals.



Sustainable Communities: Solutions in Resiliency Conference panel at the University of California, Irvine campus

Seismic Resilient Water Task Force Collaborative Workshop

On March 6, the Jensen Water Treatment Plant hosted representatives from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Department of Water Resources (DWR), and Metropolitan at a special workshop focusing on how the three agencies would jointly respond after a catastrophic earthquake in the Southern California area. As part of the Seismic Resilient Water Task Force, the three agencies committed to collaborate in restoring safe drinking water in the region as quickly as possible after a major earthquake. Speakers at this event included experts on the State's Catastrophic Earthquake Response Plan and the group's Joint Emergency Response Plan. Findings from this workshop will be used to design future collaborative exercises and plans.



Attendees at the Seismic Resilient Water Task Force Collaborative Workshop

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Project Highlights

Safety, Regulatory, and Training

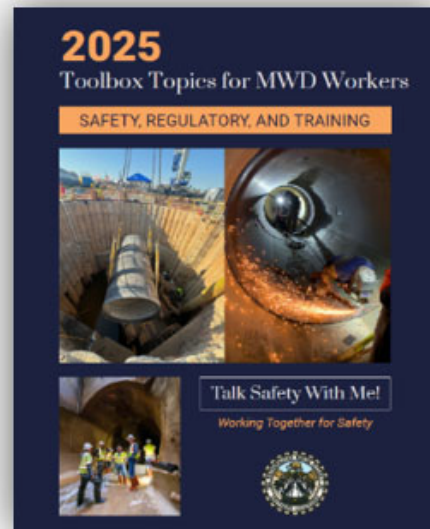
SRT Health & Safety Programs

The Safety team launched the inaugural issue of the Headquarters Safety Quarterly newsletter to extend safety communication Metropolitan-wide. This quarterly publication is designed to keep all staff informed about important HQ-related safety updates. Each issue will feature key statistics, safety reminders, and other valuable resources to foster a safer workplace.

Additionally, the **2025 “Talk Safety with Me”** Toolbox Topic book has been published and distributed to work teams. The book contains 52 toolbox topics—one for each week of the year—reflecting Metropolitan’s current Environmental, Health, and Safety policies and procedures. Weekly toolboxes are conducted to consistently communicate potential safety hazards, review job plans, reinforce safe work practices, and encourage open communication about safety concerns.



US Headquarters Newsletter



2025 Take Safety with Me Toolbox Book

SRT Environmental Programs

The Environmental team provided Polychlorinated Biphenyl regulatory training to Engineering Project Managers and coordinated asbestos and lead abatement for Gene House 118 and Copper Basin House 119.

Additionally, the team submitted Wastewater Discharge Compliance reports for six facilities and a Metropolitan-wide Annual Report for Drinking Water Discharges. They supported annual Underground Storage Tank testing certifications and inspections for eight facilities and provided shutdown dewatering support for Rialto Feeder, Yorba Linda Feeder, Inland Feeder, and Santa Monica Feeder.

Lastly, staff provided training to the Deserts Coatings team on the new Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) permit requirements for abrasive blasting at the Gene Pumping Plant and renewed 40 MDAQMD air permits.

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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. Recruitment efforts to hire apprentices for the Desert Region continued this month. Over 200 applications were received. Qualified applicants were invited to self-schedule for written testing at online testing centers located throughout California, Arizona, and Nevada. Top-scoring candidates will move forward to interviews and physical abilities testing in April and May.

Staff provided a presentation on Metropolitan's Apprenticeship Programs during Metropolitan's semi-annual meeting with the DWR. The meeting was held at the future Apprentice Training Center near Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet, California. The presentation included an overview of the delivery and management of the state-certified mechanical and electrical programs, as well as a status update on the new Apprentice Training Center.



Apprenticeship staff presenting during the meeting with the Department of Water Resources

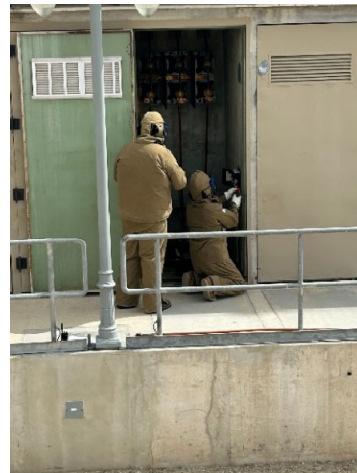
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SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

This month, the Safety and Technical Training team conducted an observation of high-voltage switching at the Hinds Pumping Plant. The team reviewed the switching orders, observed a rehearsal using the mimic board, and closely monitored the entire switching process. This direct observation allows the training staff to develop relevant training materials and better prepare for upcoming Desert System Operating Orders Manual training sessions. Additionally, the team facilitated a meeting with all training coordinators, during which they provided valuable instructions on generating reports, assessing training needs, and enrolling employees in training.



Desert staff rehearsing switching at the mimic board



Desert staff isolating transformers during active switching