



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

• OSSP Monthly Activities July and August 2025

Summary

This monthly report provides a summary of OSSP activities for July and August 2025 in the following key areas:

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

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Attachment 1: Detailed Report – OSSP Monthly Activities for July and August 2025

Office of Safety, Security & Protection

Monthly Activities Report for July and August 2025

Improve the Workplace and Promote START Values

Strengthen safety training

Safety, Regulatory, and Training (SRT)

SRT Health and Safety Programs

The second issue of the Headquarters Safety Newsletter was published and distributed to all employees. The Safety Newsletter highlighted new IntraMet updates, incident summaries, important safety talks, and shoutouts to recognize employees' safety contributions.



Headquarters Safety Newsletter: Issue #2

The team facilitated an unannounced Cal/OSHA site visit at the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant and Hinds Pumping Plant. Formal reports from the visits have not been received; however, staff are proactively working with the facility to make safety improvements.

The team worked with the National Safety Council to deliver two pilot trainings of the Safety Culture Leadership curriculum. These pilot trainings introduced the audience to safety culture concepts and provided a platform to identify opportunities for improvement within Metropolitan's safety culture journey.

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SRT Environmental Programs

The Environmental team participated in the Quarterly Industrial Advisory Council meeting hosted by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District to discuss recently revised regulatory requirements, which will impact Palos Verdes Reservoir and Weymouth. Key updates included the voluntary transition to a new online system for submitting Surcharge Statements and Self-Monitoring Reports, as well as revisions to their rainwater policy.

An informal comment was submitted to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) on Proposed Rule 1445 (Plasma Arc Cutting) requesting that the rule not apply to portable hand-held units used for maintenance and repair activities. The results of the demonstration held at Weymouth earlier in the year were referenced to support the request. SCAQMD staff agreed that some of the requirements are infeasible for our industry, and they will be doing additional review and considering our request.

Lastly, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted a hazardous waste inspection in June at Iron Mountain. Staff are working on addressing several findings.

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 began their fifth period of instruction. Mechanical apprentices will continue developing fabrication skills by learning welding principles, including safety, metallurgy, torch cutting, and working with metals in shop and field environments. Electrical apprentices will expand their knowledge and technical skills with variable frequency drives (VFD), VFD faults and troubleshooting, semiconductors, and power supplies. As the fifth period marks the halfway point for the Class of 2027, staff are finalizing details to onboard the next pre-apprentices scheduled for hire in August. These Class of 2029 pre-apprentices will serve a probationary period before being registered as apprentices with the State of California Division of Apprenticeship Standards.

SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

The team upgraded the training rooms and installed monitors, speakers, and a videoconferencing system. These upgrades will enhance the training experience and allow effective hybrid (in-person and online) training.

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Improve the Workplace and Promote START Values

Expand security capabilities

Security Response

Metropolitan Security and the Los Angeles Conveyance and Distribution (C&D) team responded to a power outage at the Dominguez Channel, caused by vandalism to a buried power junction box. The damage was linked to an extensive, concealed homeless encampment under the 110 freeway that had been illegally siphoning electricity and exploiting Metropolitan's infrastructure.

Security staff conducted a risk assessment, engaged with individuals at the scene—including gang-affiliated persons—de-escalated threats, and provided safety support for repair crews. Emergency repairs were completed, and future prevention measures, including reinforced junction box protections and upgraded hardware, are underway.

This incident underscores the growing impact of power theft, illegal dumping, and encroachments on Metropolitan properties, prompting continued efforts to safeguard infrastructure and protect field personnel.



Metropolitan security staff support Los Angeles C&D repair crews restoring power to vandalized substructures

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Emergency Management

The Metropolitan Emergency Operations Center (EOC) officially deactivated from the response to the Los Angeles protest/civil unrest on June 19. The Metropolitan EOC was activated during the protests and civil unrest in the downtown Los Angeles area to coordinate the closure of the Union Station Headquarters building and relocation of board meetings. The EOC returned to Duty Officer status, continued to monitor the situation, and maintained contact with the Los Angeles City and County EOCs.

Metropolitan continued reaching out to our emergency management partners this month by hosting personnel from the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on June 23. OEM staff toured Metropolitan's Eagle Rock Facility, which included the Emergency Operations Center, Operations Control Center, and the Security Watch Center. During the January wildfires, Metropolitan deployed Agency Representatives to the Los Angeles County EOC, and this meeting was a follow-up to lessons learned from that incident.



MWD's Ian Whyte (left) tours with Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management personnel at the Eagle Rock facility

On June 24, Metropolitan staff attended a Wildfire Preparation Cooperators meeting for Los Angeles County's Disaster Management Area D in Azusa, California. The meeting was for utilities, first-responders, and emergency management staff that have assets and interests in Area D, which includes the Foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. This area was significantly impacted by the Eaton Fire in January 2025. Metropolitan worked with many of these agencies during our response to the Eaton Fire, and these types of ongoing outreach activities are a vital part of our emergency management program.

On June 25, staff participated in the Diemer Safety Fair in Yorba Linda. Ian Whyte, Emergency Management Program Manager, presented an overview of Metropolitan's EOC response to the Eaton and Palisades Fires. The district's mobile command vehicle was also on display to show employees some of the tools used to manage emergencies.

On August 6, in an abundance of caution, the Metropolitan EOC and Jensen Incident Command Post (ICP) were activated briefly at a low level to support LADWP's response to an equipment repair issue causing a service disruption to LADWP customers in the Granada Hills/Porter Ranch area. The EOC and ICP were activated to monitor the situation since Metropolitan was providing assistance to LADWP to restore water to the area. Activating the EOC also allowed Metropolitan to easily communicate with the Los Angeles City EOC, which was also activated for this event, in case the situation worsened. The Metropolitan EOC deactivated on August 8 and returned to Duty Officer status.