



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection

• OSSP Monthly Activities for May 2025

Summary

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

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Key Activities Report for May 2025

Project Highlights

Security and Emergency Management

Security and Emergency Response

Metropolitan Security Management recently released a request for bid proposals for a new 5-year guard services contract that will run from 2025 to 2030. Metropolitan has traditionally utilized contract guard services to stand fixed posts at all occupied facility entrances, operate the 24/7/365 Security Watch Center located at Eagle Rock, and provide security patrols throughout the service area. In addition to the services that are currently being provided by Metropolitan's security vendor, some additional unique features are being considered for the new contract, including:

- **Additional Armed Officers:** Armed guards have been deployed at key facilities in the Desert Region. Additional armed officers will be deployed to all main vehicle entrances at Water Treatment Plants.
- **Additional Semi-Autonomous robotic guards:** Robotic guards are conducting perimeter patrols of critical facilities. They can operate continuously without fatigue, patrol large areas, recharge automatically, and ensure security is maintained around the clock.
- **Security Risk Management Services:** Specialized subject matter experts will provide additional corporate risk management resources and analysis.
- **Sacramento Delta Patrol Services:** Adding security services to patrol the valuable Delta Island portfolio to mitigate potential human malfeasance, agricultural thefts, environmental crimes, and property damages.



Contract security vehicle patrolling Metropolitan's right-of-way along East Valley Feeder, Sylmar, CA

Enhancing Emergency Preparedness: The Strategic Acquisition of Everbridge

As the threat landscape continues to evolve—with once-unlikely events now becoming common headlines—our legacy systems have become outdated and insufficient to meet current safety standards. Metropolitan has taken a significant step toward modernizing its emergency response capabilities with the acquisition of the Everbridge Mass Notification and Incident Management System.

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Everbridge replaces Metropolitan's aging Mass Notification infrastructure with a proactive, fully integrated, and data-driven platform that enables rapid communication, real-time situational awareness, and coordinated emergency responses. This system addresses prior gaps in communication, manual operations, and employee engagement while aligning with industry best practices and compliance expectations.

Key benefits include:

- **Multichannel alerting** to reach all stakeholders—staff, emergency services, and external partners—instantly.
- **Real-time visualization tools** for improved situational awareness and decision-making.
- **Geospatial risk monitoring** through Visual Command Center and AI-based threat intelligence via Signal.
- **Business continuity support** through automation and streamlined coordination.

This investment reflects a strategic commitment to employee safety, infrastructure protection, and organizational resilience. Everbridge technology gives Metropolitan the ability to respond faster, smarter, and more effectively to emergencies, helping safeguard lives, assets, and operations.

Emergency Management Program Update

Staff continued to run emergency exercises for responders in the following disciplines and locations: Information Technology, Weymouth Water Treatment Plant, Damage Assistance Teams, and Jensen Water Treatment Plant.



Members of the Information Technology Incident Command Post participating in emergency response training at Union Station Headquarters

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Staff remained busy throughout the month as they:

- Monitored the aftermath of a magnitude 5.1 earthquake in Julian on April 14. The earthquake was felt over a wide area but there were no reported impacts on employee safety or Metropolitan operations.
- Presented an overview of Metropolitan operations to the Area D Disaster Management Area Committee meeting in Glendora, Los Angeles County on April 17. Area D represents a group of cities in the county along the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Some of the Area D cities were impacted by the Eaton Fire or sent resources to assist. This type of pre-disaster outreach is important to ensure smooth communications when responding to real-time emergencies.
- Monitored a network outage in the Desert Region that impacted telephone and data communications on April 23. Radio and satellite communications remained active, and regular communications returned later that day.
- Supported the Foothill Municipal Water District's efforts in developing a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Supported Southern California Edison by presenting at their Public Safety Power Shutoff Workshop on April 30.

Staff met with the current Orange County Fire Authority Battalion Chief covering the Diemer Water Treatment Plant. The purpose of this informal meeting was to establish a working relationship with local Fire Department personnel who may respond to the Diemer Plant during a future emergency. We agreed to plan future collaborative training and exercises.

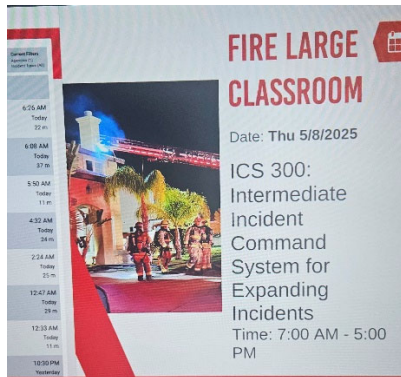


OCFA Battalion Chief Kyle Kuzma met with Carlos Rosas (Diemer Plant) and Ian Whyte (Emergency Management) at the Diemer Water Treatment Plant

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The Palos Verdes Dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) was updated, and copies were shared with the plan holders and the California Office of Emergency Services. Metropolitan is required to update all Dam EAPs annually.

Finally, staff attended the annual conference for the California Emergency Services Association from May 5 through May 8 in San Francisco. They completed FEMA Incident Command System (ICS) training in managing expanding incidents (ICS-300) the same week at the Corona Fire Department.



FEMA ICS-300 training, managing expanding incidents, at the Corona Fire Department; CESA Annual Conference in San Francisco

Project Highlights

Safety, Regulatory, and Training

SRT Health and Safety Programs

Three new safety talks were posted on the following topics: Blood Lead Level (BLL) Testing, MWD Lead Workers Fact Sheet, and Facial Hair Policy for Respirator Users.

MWD Safety Talk

Blood Lead Level (BLL) Testing

Metropolitan is required by Cal/OSHA 15327.1 (Cal/OSHA Lead in Construction Standard) to make Blood Lead Level (BLL) testing available to employees who may be occupationally exposed to lead at or above the Action Level. BLL testing is a critical tool to help prevent lead overexposure and protect worker health.

- BLL testing is highly recommended but not mandatory. Before making this critical decision, employees may consult with their personal doctor or the MetLife medical provider.
- BLL testing improves employee protection by detecting lead exposure early and existing prompt mitigation of possible lead exposures.
- Employees can contact HR to schedule BLL testing at the clinic if unable to go to the MetLife.
- BLL testing takes place during work hours and at no cost to employees.
- Metropolitan does not report elevated BLL among its employees. However, in the event that elevated BLL is detected, employees are entitled to medical removal protection benefits, ensuring meaningful earnings, seniority, and other employment rights.

Importance of Medical Surveillance (i.e. Blood Lead Level Testing)

Undetected lead exposures may occur when:

- Engineering controls are not properly set up;
- Safe work practices are not properly followed;
- Work areas are not diligently cleaned;
- Inadequate housekeeping and personal hygiene.

For these reasons, it is critical to have regular BLL testing for early detection to confirm that all above controls are effective in preventing employee lead exposures.

Early detection helps ensure adverse health consequences and allows you to address inadequate control measures.

High BLL can lead to stress and permanent health consequences like cardiovascular disease, kidney damage, neurological diseases, and reproductive issues (being unable to have a healthy child).

BLL Testing and Scheduling

Metropolitan offers regular BLL testing free of charge to employees. HR Medical Accommodations will notify all lead workers that they are due for their Blood Lead Level Test. Frequency of BLL testing is based on an employee's work tasks, lead exposures, or prior medical results. Additional medical exams may be scheduled based on the results of the BLL testing.

Employees must notify their manager before going to the MetLife or the clinic. The BLL testing will be made available to employees on a regular basis, even if they declined to be tested in prior years. If an employee cannot make the MetLife schedule, they can contact HR to be scheduled in the clinic.

BLL testing and related medical exams are strongly recommended but not required. BLL testing is an extremely important tool to prevent employee's health.

MWD Safety Talk

MWD Lead Workers Fact Sheet

Metropolitan offers free regular blood lead level (BLL) testing to designated employees. BLL testing is a vital tool to help prevent lead overexposure and protect worker health. Lead is an extremely toxic metal that can cause serious illness and permanently damage the brain, nervous system, kidney, reproductive system, and overall health. Lead exposure occurs when it is inhaled, ingested through eating food, or drinking with hands that have not been thoroughly cleaned after doing lead related work. Although some lead is excreted from the body, a portion remains in the blood and bones. While immediate symptoms may not always be evident, lead stored in the body can gradually damage individual cells, eventually requiring organs and entire bodily systems.

SHORT-TERM (acute) OVEREXPOSURE is when a large amount of exposure happens over a short period of time and can lead to seizures, coma, and even death. An acute overexposure can also cause sperm abnormalities, miscarriages, and underweight babies.

LONG-TERM (chronic) OVEREXPOSURE occurs over extended periods, such as occupational exposures, and can also damage cardiovascular, blood forming, nervous, urinary, and reproductive systems.

Recognizing symptoms that could be an indication of elevated BLL

A realistic look at the results:

- Pallor or loss of color from normal skin tone
- Constipation
- Headaches
- Muscle and joint pain
- Numbness
- Nausea
- Hypertension
- Nervous instability

First Trimester's such as involuntary shaking movements.

What can you/yourself do?

Workers can reduce their lead exposures by using provided protective respiratory and good hygiene and housekeeping practices. These include:

- Don't eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics in areas where lead is present.
- Use vacuums equipped with HEPA filters to clean lead dust and employ them in many different ways.
- Wash hands, exposed areas, and face with special cleaning product.
- Shower, eat, drink, smoke, or apply cosmetics after work.
- Wear respirators properly.

Don't wear contaminated clothing at work. Don't take shoes or gear in your car. Don't store them in the same place you keep your most clothes unless they are cleaned at the end of the shift if required.

Cal/OSHA Blood Lead Level (BLL) Testing

Additional monitoring may be required until blood lead levels are below 30 µg/dL.

MWD Safety Talk

Facial Hair Policy for Respirator Use

Facial Hair Matters. Cal/OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard (Title 8, Section 15328) prohibits the use of tight fitting air purifying respirators that face or full face respirators by employees who have facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the respirator and the face, or that interferes with the respirator's valve function. **Tight fitting respirators rely on a tight seal between the facepiece and an employee's face to prevent leakage of contaminants.** Facial hair such as stubble, beard growth (i.e., more than one day's (24 hours) of growth), beards, sideburns, and mustaches can disrupt the sealing area of the respirator, allowing hazardous particles or gases to enter. Employees are not eligible to participate in such areas where conditions exceed a good seal of the respirator. Respond to the Reg. Refer to [Cal/OSHA Respiratory Protection Program](#) for additional guidance.

Responsibilities:

- Managers** - ensure that employees are current in their medical clearance, respiratory protection training, and have passed an annual fit test before assigned tasks that require respirator use. **Managers must instruct employees to discontinue facial hair so that it does not interfere with the respirator and while in use.** An ideal time to remove the policy is when completing a job safety hazard checklist, before a shift start before or during a scheduled toolbox meeting, or when a new job requires the use of a respirator.
- Employees** - stay current with medical clearance, respiratory protection training, and annual fit tests. Employees must ensure facial hair does not come between the sealing surface of the facepiece and the face or interfere with valve function. **Employees with facial hair that interferes with the respirator, must discontinue facial hair until the respirator is perfect fit test.**
- SRT Site Support Representatives** - conduct initial and annual respiratory protection training and fit testing for employees who wear tight fitting respirators. **SRT Site Support Representatives will conduct fit testing if facial hair growth interferes with the sealing surface of the respirator, such as beard growth, beards, sideburns, or mustaches that interfere with the sealing surface of the respirator.** SRT will train and remove employees and managers about MWD's Facial Hair Policy.

Important Reminders:

Under the Facial Hair Policy, and Fitting Facepiece Respirators for acceptable facial hairlines. In general, facial hair is allowed, if it does not protrude under the respirator seal or extend far enough to interfere with the respirator's valve function.

At the time of respirator use, **employees must discontinue facial hair so that it will not interfere with the seal of the respirator.** Employees with facial hair that interferes with the respirator seal must not be allowed to wear respirators after performing the task when it is passed current fit test.

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New Safety Talks

The Safety Team facilitated an unannounced site visit of Cal/OSHA at Union Station Headquarters and submitted a document response package to all 13 categories requested within three working days after the inspection. There has been a significant increase in the incident rate for recordable injuries in the first half of 2025 from a low of 1.5 in 2024 to 2.9 currently. While the incident rate is still below the five-year average of 3.2 and the state average for the industry of 5.1, the rapid increase is a concern. Additional safety talks have been implemented, and management is communicating with employees to ensure they take the time to complete their work safely.

SRT Environmental Programs

The Environmental Team completed: (a) eight hazardous waste pick-ups at various facilities and along Metropolitan Right-of-Ways; (b) underground storage tank testing and inspection days for six facilities, and (c) dewatering notices for four Feeder shutdowns and two unplanned water releases.

An Air Quality Stationary Emergency Standby Generator Engine Bulletin was posted on the IntraMet as guidance to custodians on the major permitting, operational, and maintenance requirements for stationary engines greater than 50 brake horsepower, where additional engine run hour limits and Public Safety Power Shutoff events have been included.

Lastly, the following reports were submitted:

- Hazardous Materials Business Plan updates to the California Environmental Reporting System for six facilities
- Diemer's First Quarter 2025 Self-Monitoring Report for the General De Minimis Permit to the State Water Quality Control Board
- Jensen and Weymouth, First Quarter 2025 Industrial Wastewater Self-Monitoring Report to LA Sanitation

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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 team facilitated physical abilities testing, which represents the final recruitment phase for Desert Region pre-apprentices. Physical abilities testing is a series of pass/fail activities to measure a candidate's aptitude and ability to perform maintenance work, including shoveling, working at heights, color wire matching, overhead manual dexterity, and simulated confined space work. Approximately 20 candidates participated in the testing at Gene. Once final scoring is completed, candidates will be ranked on an eligibility hiring list.



Pre-apprentice candidate completing simulated confined space activity for physical abilities testing

SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

The team updated Workplace Violence Prevention training for all Metropolitan employees to foster a safe and respectful work environment. The training is available online through MyLearning and requires annual recertification.

Furthermore, the team collaborated with Operations to implement training on the critical infrastructure protection standards of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation. This training focuses on safeguarding the physical and cyber assets of the electrical grid. Designated employees are enrolled in this certification and must complete the training annually.