THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

- **OSSP Monthly Activities Report - August 2026**

Summary

This monthly report provides a summary of OSSP activities for August 2026 in the following key areas:

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

Purpose

Informational

Attachments

Attachment 1: Detailed Report – OSSP Monthly Activities for August 2026

Date of Report: 9/15/2026

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of Safety Security Protection

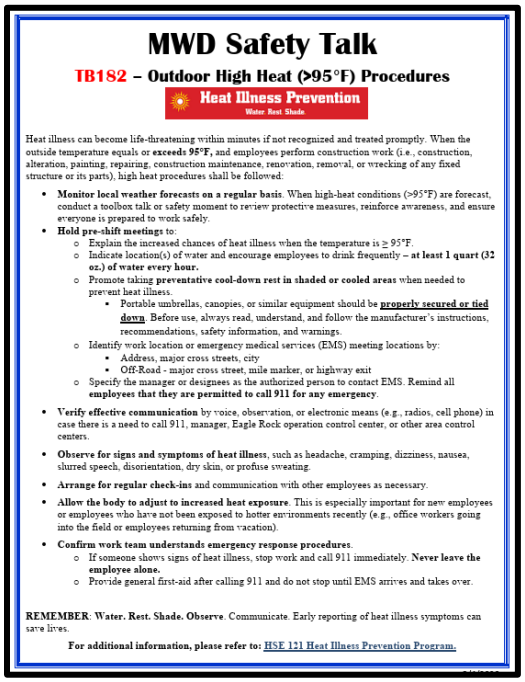
OSSP Monthly Activities Report
August 2026

Objectives:
Improve the workplace and promote START values.
Strengthen safety training. Expand security and emergency management capabilities.

SAFETY, REGULATORY & TRAINING (SRT)

SRT Health and Safety Programs

The Health and Safety Team issued a new Safety Talk on Outdoor High Heat (above 95°F) Procedures, providing staff with guidance on required safety measures when outdoor temperatures reach or exceed 95°F. In addition, the team conducted exposure assessments during fiberglass layup and coating operations inside a tank to identify and enhance safety requirements for similar future activities.



MWD Safety Talk

TB182 – Outdoor High Heat (>95°F) Procedures

Heat Illness Prevention
Water. Rest. Shade.

Heat illness can become life-threatening within minutes if not recognized and treated promptly. When the outside temperature equals or **exceeds 95°F,** and employees perform construction work (i.e., construction, alteration, painting, repairing, construction maintenance, renovation, removal, or wrecking of any fixed structure or its parts), high heat procedures shall be followed:

- **Monitor local weather forecasts on a regular basis**. When high-heat conditions (>95°F) are forecast, conduct a toolbox talk or safety moment to review protective measures, reinforce awareness, and ensure everyone is prepared to work safely.
- **Hold pre-shift meetings** to:
  - Explain the increased chances of heat illness when the temperature is ≥ 95°F.
  - Indicate location(s) of water and encourage employees to drink frequently – **at least 1 quart (32 oz.) of water every hour.**
  - Promote taking **preventative cool-down rest in shaded or cooled areas** when needed to prevent heat illness.
    - Portable umbrellas, canopies, or similar equipment should be **properly secured or tied down**. Before use, always read, understand, and follow the manufacturer's instructions, recommendations, safety information, and warnings.
  - Identify work location or emergency medical services (EMS) meeting locations by:
    - Address, major cross streets, city
    - Off-Road - major cross street, mile marker, or highway exit
  - Specify the manager or designees as the authorized person to contact EMS. Remind all **employees that they are permitted to call 911 for any emergency**.
- **Verify effective communication** by voice, observation, or electronic means (e.g., radios, cell phone) in case there is a need to call 911, manager, Eagle Rock operation control center, or other area control centers.
- **Observe for signs and symptoms of heat illness**, such as headache, cramping, dizziness, nausea, slurred speech, disorientation, dry skin, or profuse sweating.
- **Arrange for regular check-ins** and communication with other employees as necessary.
- **Allow the body to adjust to increased heat exposure**. This is especially important for new employees or employees who have not been exposed to hotter environments recently (e.g., office workers going into the field or employees returning from vacation).
- **Confirm work team understands emergency response procedures**.
  - If someone shows signs of heat illness, stop work and call 911 immediately. **Never leave the employee alone.**
  - Provide general first-aid after calling 911 and do not stop until EMS arrives and takes over.

REMEMBER: **Water. Rest. Shade. Observe**. Communicate. Early reporting of heat illness symptoms can save lives.

For additional information, please refer to: HSE 121 Heat Illness Prevention Program.

High Heat Procedure Safety Talk

SRT Environmental Programs

The Environmental Team hosted South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) staff for a tour of the Corrosion Laboratory at the Weymouth facility to highlight Metropolitan's rigorous coatings testing program and discuss how proposed changes to Rule 1113 may affect the coatings currently in use. The tour helped SCAQMD better understand the concerns raised, and they were receptive to the suggestions provided.

Outreach letters were also sent to hazmat response agencies for each water treatment plant with chlorine operations, inviting them to coordinate exercises or facility tours. This outreach fulfills Process Safety Management (PSM) and Risk Management Program (RMP) regulatory requirements.

SCAQMD Tour of Corrosion Lab at Weymouth

SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

The Safety and Technical Training Team partnered with Water Treatment and Construction Services to deliver comprehensive mobile crane training, including classroom instruction and hands-on practical exercises. Employees must pass written and practical exams to earn certification. The training ensures operators can safely inspect, set up, and operate mobile cranes in compliance with OSHA requirements, manufacturer specifications, and site-specific procedures.

Mobile Crane Training

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SRT Apprenticeship Programs

This month, the Class of 2030 Electrical and Mechanical pre-apprentices began their first period of apprenticeship instruction, covering foundational skills in safety, tools, and basic electrical and mechanical principles. Meanwhile, the Class of 2027 Mechanical apprentices are completing their machine shop training, gaining hands-on machining experience to support their mechanical maintenance work.

Mechanical and Electrical Apprenticeship Class of 2030

Security Management

Security Posture Condition (SPCON)

Prioritizing the protection of multiple sites – each with differing, and at times escalating, importance and criticality based on evolving threats across our service area – requires a flexible approach that allows for prompt deployment across locations. This approach is shared between the deployment of personnel to cover, patrol, and protect key sites, and the deployment of equipment to enhance SEMU's ability to detect suspicious activity and direct resources to it before it develops into an issue. This follows our preventative model, which is more cost-effective and prudent given the critical infrastructure that 19 million people depend on.

To streamline the deployment of personnel, a rapid SPCON (Security Posture Condition – our tiered threat-response framework) protocol was enacted, allowing us to scale the number of security officers deployed to our critical facilities based on threat level.

On the equipment front, we have expanded our capabilities through the deployment of portable cameras connected to our security system platform, enabling the detection of movement and activity in areas prone to criminal activity. These new systems feature advanced technology, including radar, thermal cameras, and analytics.

Metropolitan's advanced technology includes thermal radar cameras.

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Emergency Management

Response

The Emergency Management Team responded to numerous events last month, including activation of the Metropolitan Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Western Conveyance and Distribution Incident Command Post (ICP) to support staff responding to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power water main break in West Hollywood. The LADWP line was near a Metropolitan line, and the EOC and ICP were activated in an abundance of caution.

Emergency Management staff also monitored seven active wildfires near Metropolitan facilities last month and sent emergency alerts to staff in affected areas.

Preparation

To prepare for future emergencies, staff continued working with Metropolitan's Information Technology (IT) Group to develop new technologies to improve emergency response. Examples include using AI to generate a comprehensive training plan to prepare staff for the 2028 Olympics, developing an AI roadmap for Emergency Management to aid areas such as FEMA/Cal OES Recovery project tracking, EOC and ICP activations, Dam Emergency Action Plan (EAP) updates and testing, emergency alert and warning, etc.

Collaboration and Outreach

Emergency Management staff collaborated with numerous external agencies during the last month. Outreach included; conducting a monthly emergency radio test with all Member Agencies, participating in the monthly WEROC (Water Emergency Response of Orange County) radio test, participating in Local Hazard Mitigation Plan development in San Diego County, participating in multiple Dam EAP tabletops exercises with the State Department of Water Resources (DWR), and coordination with the Los Angeles County Fire Department on a reservoir operations and emergency water source for firefighting.

Training and Exercises

We are implementing lessons learned from recent real-world responses into our current training. Last month's training and exercises included a full-scale drill for the Damage Assessment Team and the Weymouth ICP based on a major earthquake scenario, Everbridge training for Safety staff, a tabletop exercise for the Water Quality ICP, a field deployment drill of the Mobile Command trailer at the Mills Plant, and initial assessment training for Emergency Management staff and Duty Officers.