THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Board Report

Office of Safety, Security, and Protection (OSSP)

- **OSSP Monthly Activities Report for September 2026**

Summary

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

- Safety, Regulatory, and Training
  - 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 September 2026

Date of Report: October 13, 2026

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Office of Safety Security Protection

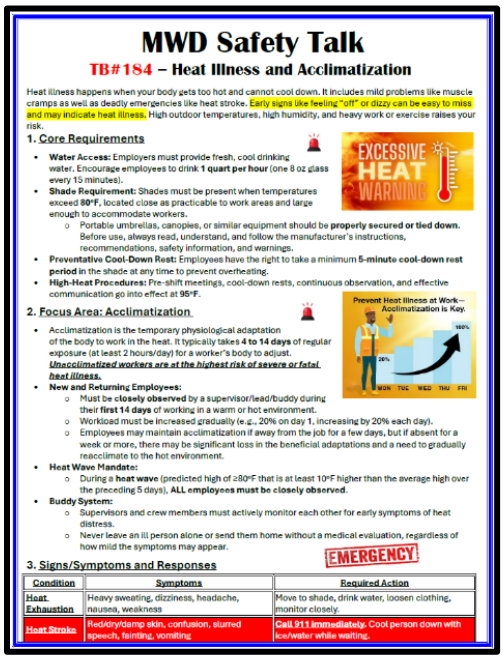
OSSP Monthly Activities Report
September 2026

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

With the continued high temperatures, the Health and Safety Team maintained its focus on Heat Illness Prevention Awareness, issuing Safety Alerts, including one on portable shade, and reminding employees to watch for heat illness symptoms. A new Safety Talk on acclimatization also highlighted that new employees or those returning from an extended leave of absence may need 4–14 days to adjust to the heat, during which work should be introduced gradually and closely monitored.



MWD Safety Talk

TB# 184 – Heat Illness and Acclimatization

Heat illness happens when your body gets too hot and cannot cool down. It includes mild problems like muscle cramps as well as deadly emergencies like heat stroke. Early signs like feeling "off" or dizzy can be easy to miss and may indicate heat illness. High outdoor temperatures, high humidity, and heavy work or exercise raises your risk.

1. Core Requirements

EXCESSIVE HEAT WARNING

- **Water Access:** Employers must provide fresh, cool drinking water. Encourage employees to drink **1 quart per hour** (one 8 oz glass every 15 minutes).
- **Shade Requirement:** Shades must be present when temperatures exceed **80°F**, located close as practicable to work areas and large enough to accommodate workers.
  - 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.
- **Preventative Cool-Down Rest:** Employees have the right to take a minimum **5-minute cool-down rest period** in the shade at any time to prevent overheating.
- **High-Heat Procedures:** Pre-shift meetings, cool-down rests, continuous observation, and effective communication go into effect at 95°F.

2. Focus Area: Acclimatization

Prevent Heat Illness at Work—Acclimatization is Key.

- Acclimatization is the temporary physiological adaptation of the body to work in the heat. It typically takes **4 to 14 days** of regular exposure (at least 2 hours/day) for a worker's body to adjust. ***Unacclimatized workers are at the highest risk of severe or fatal heat illness.***
- **New and Returning Employees:**
  - Must be **closely observed** by a supervisor/lead/buddy during their **first 14 days** of working in a warm or hot environment.
  - Workload must be increased gradually (e.g., 20% on day 1, increasing by 20% each day).
  - Employees may maintain acclimatization if away from the job for a few days, but if absent for a week or more, there may be significant loss in the beneficial adaptations and a need to gradually reacclimate to the hot environment.
- **Heat Wave Mandate:**
  - During a **heat wave** (predicted high of ≥80°F that is at least 10°F higher than the average high over the preceding 5 days), **ALL employees must be closely observed.**
- **Buddy System:**
  - Supervisors and crew members must actively monitor each other for early symptoms of heat distress.
  - Never leave an ill person alone or send them home without a medical evaluation, regardless of how mild the symptoms may appear.

EMERGENCY

3. Signs/Symptoms and Responses

Condition	Symptoms	Required Action
Heat Exhaustion	Heavy sweating, dizziness, headache, nausea, weakness	Move to shade, drink water, loosen clothing, monitor closely.
Heat Stroke	Red/dry/damp skin, confusion, slurred speech, fainting, vomiting	Call 911 immediately. Cool person down with ice/water while waiting.

Heat Illness and Acclimatization.

To support golden mussel control efforts, staff prepared safety plans and identified installation locations for new chemical feed systems. They also visited Live Oak Reservoir to confirm safe sampling sites for a copper sulfate study and inspected the new sodium hypochlorite feed setup at the 108th Street Pressure Control Structure.

A special meeting of the Executive Safety Committee was held to introduce the second module of the Safety Leadership Program. The new module focuses on Modeling the Behavior, with an emphasis on Metropolitan's weakest safety cultures: Flexible, Just, and Learning. The training will also include a soft rollout of a personal safety action plan to be included as a MyPerformance Safety Goal during next year's evaluation period.

Executive Safety Committee Meeting.

SRT Environmental Programs

The Environmental Team Staff participated in the second Joint Utility Vendor Audit Consortium meeting of 2026, hosted by Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), which focused on hazardous waste management and Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility. The team also sent coordination letters to hazmat response agencies for the water treatment plants and Chemical Unloading Facility, inviting them to plan exercises or facility tours to support emergency preparedness.

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To help visitors and inspectors understand Metropolitan's access requirements, a new Facility Access Identification Requirements card was developed. It outlines the entry process for critical infrastructure facilities and explains that a qualified Metropolitan escort familiar with the facility and its hazards is required to ensure visitor safety.

Front and Back of Information Card.

SRT Safety and Technical Training Programs

The Safety and Technical Training team updated the High Voltage Switching program to ensure it remains effective and compliant. A recent enhancement added a grounding practical, giving employees hands-on experience applying proper grounding techniques in a controlled environment and reinforcing safe high-voltage work practices.

The High Voltage Switching program is delivered over eight days across two weeks and includes an in-depth review of the System Operating Orders Manual. It emphasizes safe isolation and operation of high-voltage lines, circuits, and equipment up to 230,000 volts. Employees complete assignments and practical exercises to build proficiency in switching protocols, equipment isolation, and hazard recognition.

Employees Performing Electrical Grounding Practical.

SRT Apprenticeship Programs

The Mechanical Class of 2027 apprentices completed their final written exams and concluded their seventh period of machine shop instruction.

The Electrical Class of 2027 apprentices completed their Basic Water Treatment course, qualifying them to apply for the California State Water Resources Control Board T2 or D2 certification exam.

The Mechanical Class of 2029 apprentices completed their midterm exams, which included written and practical components. The written exam assessed their ability to read blueprints and recognize fabrication safety procedures, while the practical exam evaluated their ability to perform safe torch-cutting techniques.

Security Management

Lake Mathews E-Cam Tower Deployment

Security has deployed E-Cam towers at Lake Mathews as an interim security enhancement pending completion of the camera replacement project. The towers integrate motion detection and video analytics capability, providing continuous perimeter awareness in areas where fixed camera infrastructure is aging or scheduled for replacement. Deployment was executed through our contract security provider, supplementing the guard force's physical presence with an automated detection layer that extends coverage and reduces response time to unauthorized activity.

This measure closes a near-term coverage gap without committing capital resources ahead of the broader camera replacement effort, and it gives the guard force an added tool for verifying and responding to alerts in real time rather than relying solely on patrol observation.

The E-Cam towers are a bridging measure, not a substitute for the planned fixed camera infrastructure at Lake Mathews. Security will continue tracking the camera replacement project's funding and schedule to ensure the transition to permanent coverage proceeds without a gap in protection.

E-Cam tower at Lake Mathews.

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Metropolitan Continues WaterISAC Physical Security Committee Participation

WaterISAC's Physical Security and Resilience Advisory Committee (PSRAC) provides strategic guidance and subject matter expertise on issues related to physical security, natural disasters, and operational resilience for the drinking water and wastewater sector. The 12-member PSRAC meets monthly to discuss physical security and resilience priorities and opportunities for the sector. During meetings, members offer input to inform the development of reports, presentations, exercises, and more for both WaterISAC members and the broader water and wastewater sector. Additionally, the meetings provide a forum for PSRAC members to engage with one another, trade lessons learned, and establish best practices. The twelve PSRAC members have over 100 years of combined experience in physical security, emergency management, and risk and resilience planning roles, and Metropolitan Security staff will proudly fill one of those seats for another two years with a new security specialist.

WaterISAC PSRAC benefits from another two years of MWD committee membership.

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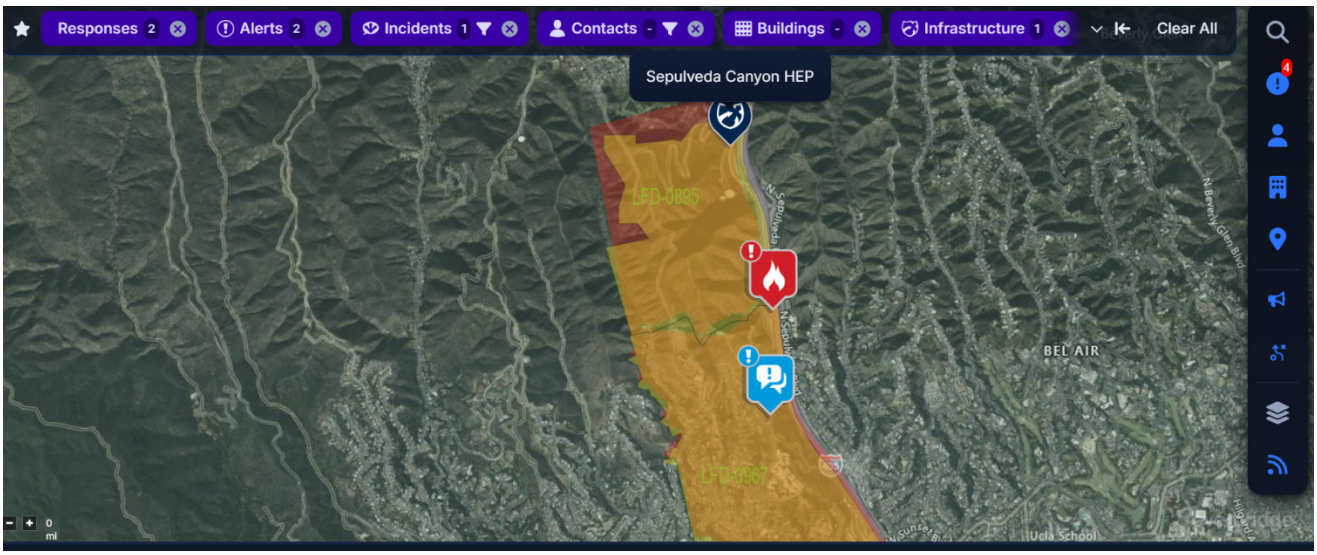
Emergency Management

Response



Everbridge map of the Getty Fire in relation to Metropolitan's Sepulveda PCS/HEP facility.

There were numerous wildfires this month in Metropolitan's service area that initiated staff responses. Staff coordinated with the Los Angeles Fire Department and other Metropolitan staff during the Getty Fire on September 9th near the Sepulveda Pressure Control Structure (PCS). For the Wood Fire on August 28th in Riverside County, staff sent a MetAlert notification to Lake Mathews employees for the Wood Fire. Staff also closely monitored a non-Metropolitan related Hazardous Materials incident on September 8th in La Habra and a regional Extreme Heat Warning in mid-August. Finally, on September 1st, staff monitored the Hilary Fire in north Los Angeles County near the east branch of the California Aqueduct.

Emergency Management staff also initiated new "Red Flag Protocols" during a multi-day Red Flag Fire Warning in late August. These protocols call for staff to pre-position mobile command units, as necessary, and make themselves available for immediate response to local Incident Command Posts as necessary.

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Preparation

In-person participants at the Engineering-Operations-Safety/Security/Protections Workshop in La Verne.

On September 1st, Emergency Management staff participated in a regular partnering workshop with other staff from the Engineering Services Group, the Operations Groups, and the Office of Safety, Security and Protection. These workshops provide an opportunity for staff from various segments of Metropolitan to come together and learn how they can collaborate with each other. Staff provided an overview of how the Emergency Management Team can support other staff during real-world emergencies.

Emergency Management staff are also becoming more involved in the annual shutdown program. This is being done to provide immediate coordination with field units during shutdowns, and as a way of familiarizing more field employees with the role of emergency management and how they can support them on a regular basis.

Collaboration and Outreach

The 2028 Olympic Games are coming soon to the Southern California area, and the emergency preparations are underway. Metropolitan's Emergency Management Team participated in a kick-off meeting on September 4th with the LADWP, and other local partner agencies, such as Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas, and the LA28 Olympic Organizing Committee.

The 2026 World Cup was a precursor for this type of high-level emergency planning, and many of the lessons learned from the World Cup will be used to sharpen planning for the 2028 Games.

Training and Exercises

Mobile Starlink kit in Lake Mathews Incident Command Post.

A significant number of emergency exercises happened during this reporting period. Staff from the Metropolitan Emergency Operations Center (EOC) completed multiple Refresher seminars to prepare for future EOC activations, while local managers participated in Incident Commander training to manage field incidents. Finally, the Disaster Assessment Team continued running full-scale exercises at specific treatment plants to hone their facility inspection skills they will use after a disaster.