



Safety, Regulatory, and Training Section

● Report of Environmental, Health, and Safety for the First Quarter of 2024

Summary

The Safety, Regulatory, and Training Section in the Office of Safety, Security and Protection is responsible for overseeing Metropolitan’s compliance with environmental, health, and safety (EHS) regulations and procedures. This report provides an update on Metropolitan’s EHS program activities and key initiatives for the period January through March 2024; the next quarterly EHS report will be issued in July 2024.

Purpose

Informational

Detailed Report

Implementing National Safety Council Recommendations

Metropolitan continues its partnership with NSC. A memorandum from the General Manager was issued to all employees to introduce Metropolitan’s new Safety Vision and Guiding Principles. Setting a safety vision and guiding principles are among the top priorities identified by NSC to improve safety culture.

The safety vision is sustained by five guiding principles. These principles commit to reducing risk by fostering a safe work environment for our employees; advancing the safety culture through teamwork in a climate of mutual respect; inviting employees to offer their experience and raise concerns to improve safety without fear of retaliation; complying with applicable laws and regulations while empowering work teams; and celebrating successes and recognizing contribution of employees, work teams, and partners who advance our safety performance.



Safety Vision and Guiding Principles

Advanced Clean Fleet Initiative

To meet compliance obligations with the new state clean fleet requirements, Metropolitan registered 76 applicable heavy-duty (HD) vehicles under CARB’s HD Inspection/Maintenance database, certified that only renewable diesel is being used for the 81 off-road construction vehicles and added nine electric medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to the fleet. The latter additions will be used to offset Metropolitan’s future purchases of diesel vehicles needed for fleet resiliency and reliability.



Purchased Electric Ford Lightnings Stake Bed Truck



E-Transit Cargo Van

Emergency Response Exercise

In a continuing effort to keep Metropolitan prepared for emergencies, a HAZWOPER/Incident Command refresher training drill was held at the Lake Skinner facility on February 6, 2024. Staff worked with Metropolitan’s emergency operations center, water treatment staff, and training vendor to coordinate with the Riverside County Fire Department, CalFire, and Riverside County Department of Environmental Health Responders on integrated incident command field posts and emergency response exercises. This is a new annual curriculum enhancement option for the Chemical Responder staff as outside responding agency teams and Metropolitan facility schedules allow.



Emergency Response Drills and Chemical Response Exercises

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Key EHS Performance Measures

Metropolitan has been tracking the success of the EHS program since 2010 using key performance indicators (KPIs) applied by many leading organizations. These KPIs fall into two categories: Leading Indicators, which are proactive efforts to improve EHS performance, and Lagging Indicators, which measure the effectiveness of preventive measures. The October through December 2023 KPIs for Metropolitan’s EHS program are shown below.

Note: January through March 2024 KPI results are not yet available and will be included in the next quarter EHS report issued in July 2024.

For this quarter, all goals for leading KPIs were achieved with ≥ 90 percent completion rate. Metropolitan facilities recorded a total of four reportable spills. Two were minor chlorine gas releases related to system maintenance and testing. The other two were spills resulting from (1) a damaged fluorosilicic acid tank, and (2) a broken water line that resulted in a discharge of service water into Bull Creek at the Jensen Treatment Plant facility.

EHS KPIs (October through December 2023)			
KPI	Type	Goal	Result ¹
Safety Inspection Completion Rate	Leading	90%	97%
Mandatory Safety Training Completion Rate	Leading	90%	91%
Toolbox Completion Rate (every 10 days)	Leading	90%	95%
Safety Committee Meeting Rate (once per quarter)	Leading	90%	100%
Recordable Injuries	Lagging	0	4
Regulatory Violations	Lagging	0	0
Reportable Chemical Spills	Lagging	0	4

¹ Green shading denotes goal met and yellow shading denotes goal was not met.

For this quarter, all goals for leading KPIs were achieved with ≥ 90 percent completion rate. In addition, the Safety Committee Forum was held on January 2024. The Forum promotes collaboration among safety committees through open discussion of organization-wide safety concerns and sharing incidents and lessons learned from local facilities. Safety committees are employee-driven and intended to facilitate communication and exchange of safety-related information between employees and managers.

Regulatory Agency Inspections

During the October through December 2023 period, Metropolitan facilities underwent a total of 11 regulatory agency inspections, conducted by local air quality, sanitation, health, fire, and safety departments with none of them resulting in a Notice of Violation.

Note: January through March 2024 regulatory inspections will be included in the next quarter EHS report issued in July 2024.

Cal/OSHA Inspections

During the October through December 2023 period, there were no Cal/OSHA inspections.

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Note: January through March 2024 Cal/OSHA Inspections will be included in the next quarter EHS report issued in July 2024.