

[Metro.net](#) (web)

Resources

► [Safety](#)

► [Pressroom](#) (web)

► [Ask the CEO](#)

► [CEO Forum](#)

► [Employee Recognition](#)

► [Employee Activities](#)

► [Metro Projects](#)

► [Facts at a Glance](#)
(web)

► [Archives](#)

► [Events Calendar](#)

► [Research Center/
Library](#)

► [Metro Classifieds](#)

► [Bazaar](#)

Metro Info

► [30/10 Initiative](#)

► [Policies](#)

► [Training](#)

► [Help Desk](#)

► [Intranet Policy](#)

Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Three City firefighters rush a basket stretcher loaded with gear, including oxygen bottles, to the rescue scene at the Eastside Extension construction site.



Photos by Bill Heard

Major Emergency Rescue Exercise in Eastside Tunnel

- 70 firefighters carry 3 'injured miners' to safety
- Three days of drills prepare firefighters for the real thing

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Jan. 31, 2006) Some 70 LA City firefighters and more than a dozen fire engines descended on a Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension construction site, Saturday, for the first of three days of intensive emergency rescue exercises.

Dressed for action and equipped with first aid kits, stretchers and apparatus to breathe in the tunnel's "gaseous" atmosphere, an Urban Search and Rescue team – supported by firefighters from Battalion 7 in Boyle Heights and Battalion 1 in downtown LA – deployed into the tunnel at 1st and Boyle to



City Fire Battalion 7 Chief Doug Graft directs the rescue exercise from his command post at Mariachi Plaza

search for three “injured miners.”

Within a short time, the “miners” were located and treated for a compound fracture, head injuries and breathing difficulties. They were hoisted to the surface where paramedics waited to transport them to nearby hospitals.

Battalion 7 Chief Doug Graft, who led the exercise from a command post at Mariachi Plaza, was pleased with the first day’s drill. “Everybody had a good idea of what their duties and responsibilities were. They made it work.”

Construction emergencies

Battalion Chief John Quintanar, the City Fire Department’s liaison with Metro, noted that firefighters had not trained in tunnel construction emergencies since the excavation of the Segment 3 tunnel to North Hollywood.

“We want to make sure all the firefighters in the immediate area are familiar with the Eastside tunnel and with our operations inside the tunnel,” he said.

Also participating in the emergency exercise – which continued on Sunday and Monday – were City Fire’s HAZMAT group, five units and 24 members of the LA County Fire Dept., law enforcement officers, Metro corporate safety and safety personnel from Traylor Bros., the contractor.



A firefighter adjusts his oxygen mask in preparation for the rescue exercise. Below, a firefighter clears his oxygen mask



As rescuers watch, two firefighters hustle an “injured miner” out of the tunnel to a location where he can be hoisted to the surface. At right, two firefighters prepare a stretcher carrying one of three “injured miners” to be hoisted to safety



As the battalion officers were assembling for a post-exercise debriefing, Graft stressed the importance of realistic rescue drills. “When there’s an emergency, we don’t want it to be the first time we’ve been to the scene. We want to be able to draw on our

experience in these exercises."



LA City Fire Dept. trucks lined up along Boyle Avenue, Jan. 28, for the first event of a three-day rescue exercise at the Eastside Extension construction site.



Five firefighters review their checklist prior to beginning the search for the three "miners" injured in a tunnel accident.



Rescue exercise leaders gather in Mariachi Plaza for a debriefing following a successful drill.

| [Home](#) | [Phone Directory](#) | [Forms Online](#) | [FIS Online](#)