

# Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

## Press Release

Subject: FIRE HYDRANT TAMPERING

Release Date: July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

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### NUMEROUS FIRE HYDRANTS TAMPERED WITH IN CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

During a two hour period last night, unknown persons opened over a dozen fire hydrants in at least eleven different locations in Pleasant Hill, Pacheco, Martinez, Lafayette and Walnut Creek.

Between the hours of 11 pm on Friday July 15<sup>th</sup> and 1:15 am on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>, fire hydrants were unlawfully and recklessly opened which allowed large amounts of water to flow into the streets.

This is not a harmless prank. Opening these fire hydrants is a crime punishable by a fine, arrest and or imprisonment. For each opened hydrant it committed valuable resources to an unnecessary call for service which may have taken them out of position for a real emergency.

Opening these hydrants like this creates a tremendous traffic hazard that can cause an accident, damage the fire hydrant making it unusable during an actual fire emergency or cause property damage not to mention the waste of the water. I can not emphasize enough how this type of criminal activity was dangerous and irresponsible.

The District is asking for the public's help in identifying who was responsible for this string of events. If anyone saw anything or has information about these crimes please contact your local law enforcement agency, the Fire District's Fire Investigation Unit at 942-9140 or the ARSON TIP LINE at 1-866-502-7766 and leave a message. You can remain anonymous.