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Commissioner

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### **Hydrants Are for Fires, Not for Fun Save Water – Save Lives**

**PHILADELPHIA** – Fire hydrants are essential for fighting fires and are only to be used in case of an emergency. During the hot summer months, it is important to remember the dangers of illegally opening fire hydrants for recreational use.

An illegally opened fire hydrant, or hydrant abuse, can create a fire hazard by reducing the water pressure necessary for fighting fires. Opening hydrants improperly can also damage them, making them ineffective for fire protection.

Illegally opened fire hydrants also interrupts normal water supply to homes and businesses. Other risks that can result from hydrant abuse include: contaminated water can be pulled into drinking water through cross connections, water main breaks, flooding in basements, clogged inlets, traffic congestion and safety hazards from children playing in the street.

The Philadelphia Water Department suggests the following alternatives to beat the heat:

- Drink plenty of water. Eight, 12 ounce glasses of water/day is recommended.
- Visit one of the 79 indoor and outdoor pools or one of the 4 spray grounds around the city. Call 215-683-3600 for more information.
- Visit the Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, 640 Water Works Drive (behind the Art Museum). Call 215-685-0723 for more information.
- Go to a movie theater or mall with air conditioning.

An open fire hydrant wastes 1,000 gallons of water per minute - as much in an hour as one household uses in a year. Each summer, illegally opened fire hydrants or hydrant abuse, wastes one billion gallons of treated drinking water, which costs Philadelphians more than one million dollars annually.

If you see an open hydrant, please call the Philadelphia Water Department to report the location at 215-685-6300.

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