



Department of Public Safety

Mitchell J. Brown, Director

Division of Fire

Ned Pettus, Jr., Fire Chief

3675 Parsons Avenue

Columbus, Ohio 43207-4054

(614) 645-7533 FAX: (614) 645-4203



City of Columbus

Mayor Michael B. Coleman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2008

Contact: B/C Doug Smith or
Kelly McGuire, 645-7859

To: ALL MEDIA

Re: ILLEGAL OPENING OF FIRE HYDRANTS

With excessive temperatures in the forecast, the Columbus Division of Fire reminds all Columbus residents that it is illegal to open their neighborhood fire hydrants (City Codes 1103.01 and 2517.04). Illegally opening fire hydrants can hamper firefighting capabilities, drain the City's water supply, and cause damage to fire hydrants, water mains, and private property.

Illegally opened hydrants can lower the water pressure in the City's neighborhoods and hinder firefighting efforts by reducing the available flow of water to fire hoses and pumps. Tampering with the hydrants can also result in damage to the hydrant, making it difficult or impossible for firefighters to use the hydrant in the event of a fire.

An open hydrant can flow over 2,500 gallons of water per minute. It can interrupt water service to area residences and businesses as well as cause property damage by flooding streets, lawns, and basements. The flooding can also create hazardous road conditions for traffic and pedestrians.

Open hydrants can also injure children. A child playing in an unrestricted flow of an open hydrant can be pushed into the street and in the path of an on-coming vehicle.

###

Training Bureau

3639 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43207-4054
(614) 645-6360
Fax (614) 645-3214

Administration Bureau

3675 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43207-4054
(614) 645-8308
Fax (614) 645-3040

Support Services Bureau

3639 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43207-4054
(614) 645-6385
Fax (614) 645-0110

Fire Prevention Bureau

3639 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43207-4054
(614) 645-7641
Fax (614) 645-6637

Emergency Services Bureau

3639 Parsons Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43207-4054
(614) 645-4128
Fax (614) 645-4204