

July 8, 2017

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PRESS RELEASE

Vandalism at Wild Horse Water Tank Request for Information

On Friday, July 7, 2017, North Marin Water District (NMWD) experienced vandalism at the Wild Horse Water Tank near Wild Horse Valley Drive in Novato. Tampering with any NMWD water facility is considered a threat to the public water supply as well as being a crime, and NMWD takes this criminal action very seriously. Water quality is NMWD's top priority and we employ multiple levels of security at these facilities, but when there is any question as to whether the quality of the water may have been compromised, that water is removed from the NMWD water distribution system. In this case, the tank was isolated immediately after an intrusion alarm was received, and taken offline to protect the public from any possible contamination. There is no indication that any contamination has occurred and this is being confirmed with testing in the area. In an abundance of caution, NMWD staff, in consultation with the California Division of Drinking Water, decided to neutralize any disinfectant in the water and drain the tank (approximately 290,000 gallons) to the storm drain system. Once drained, the tank will then be scrubbed and disinfected before being refilled and placed back into service.

As we are all acutely aware, the loss of nearly 300,000 gallons is a huge waste of a precious resource, but protecting public health must take precedence.

NMWD is asking for information regarding any suspicious activity in the vicinity of Wild Horse Valley Drive between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM on Friday, July 7.

Please contact NMWD or the Marin County Sheriff's Department if you have any information.