



PRESS RELEASE

Riverside Police Department • 4102 Orange Street • Riverside, CA 92501
Phone (951) 826-5147 • Fax (951) 826-2593

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2007
Contact: Lieutenant Steve Johnson
Phone: (951) 353-7900

Water Line Rupture Causes Sinkhole

Riverside, CA -- On Saturday, November 10, 2007, at approximately 6:30 p.m., Riverside Police officers responded to the intersection of Olivewood Avenue and City College Drive after a passerby reported the intersection was flooded with water. When the officers arrived, they discovered a large water pipe had ruptured and was discharging a large volume of water onto the campus of Riverside Community College. A minor amount of water flowed onto adjacent City streets.

The rupture caused significant erosion to soil underneath a sidewalk and a portion of Olivewood Avenue. As a precautionary measure, officers closed the street to vehicular and pedestrian traffic between City College Drive and Cridge Street. The water that spilled onto the Riverside Community College City Campus flowed into existing storm drains, which directed it to the Santa Ana River.

Personnel from the City of Riverside Public Utilities Department responded and preliminarily identified the water line as one running from an underground water well to the Gage Canal. As Utilities crew worked to shut down the ruptured water line, a large sinkhole formed underneath the street and sidewalk. At the time of this writing, a portion of the street and sidewalk measuring approximately 200 square feet had collapsed. A several-block area of the surrounding neighborhood was without electricity for about 20 minutes as an electrician disconnected a transformer that stood in the path of the water. The electricity has been fully restored.

No one was injured during this incident and the activities on the RCC campus were unaffected.

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