



To: All News Editors

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NWC SYSTEMS AFFECTED BY INCREASED THEFT, VANDALISM & THREATS

As if the severe water shortage affecting sections of the Corporate Area and sections of other southern parishes were not enough of a challenge, the NWC's drought-related problems are also being compounded by an upsurge in incidents of water theft, illegal connections, and various acts of vandalism and damage to various parts of the NWC infrastructure as well as threats to employees.

Over recent weeks the Commission has experienced a marked increase in these incidents in which unauthorized persons have been illegally withdrawing water from the NWC network particularly at fire hydrants. Illegal connections are also being made to air valves and other parts of the water supply network.

In other cases, parts of the NWC water and wastewater systems have been vandalized, resulting in gallons of precious water going to waste. As an example, the NWC points to two recent photographs in the Gleaner in which puddles of water were shown from what was assumed to be leaking pipes. Investigations later revealed that the puddles were really caused by a defective outlet for watering the median strip in the roadway and by pipes being deliberately broken for persons to access water.

According to NWC Engineers and operations personnel, these increasing incidents of illegal connections, stealing of water and vandalism not only rob the Commission of

water and potential revenue, but also rob legitimate customers of a good quality, reliable supply of water as it often drains the system of pressure and much needed water and also disrupts the water supply schedule to some customers.

To add even more to its troubles at a time when its collections are declining and its costs of operations increasing, the NWC has also been receiving an increased number of threats both to its infrastructure and its employees. According to the NWC, all credible threats are being taken seriously and appropriate security precautions are being implemented but the very nature of its infrastructure and operations expose the Commission to a high degree of risk.

The NWC urges the public to report any suspicion of an illegal connection or any other to any office of the NWC or its 1 888 CALL NWC toll-free number.

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