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THE POSTING

Mission Statement:

"To enhance public safety and the quality of life in partnership through fair enforcement of laws and codes."

California Health & Safety Code Section 17998(c)

states, "The lack of code enforcement on a single dwelling unit can lead to the deterioration of an entire neighborhood as the substandard or abandoned unit becomes a magnet for crime, vandalism, fires, and other activities that rapidly infect the surrounding homes and neighborhood."

951-955-2004
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NEGLIGENT EXCAVATING - District 1, Cajalco Office

In the Good Hope area within Riverside County's supervisorial district one, Code Enforcement Officer Jacob Dietrich discovered an area displaying visible signs of recent grading. Officer Dietrich entered the unfenced, easily accessible vacant property to investigate and found two large, open excavations on the property. Each excavation was approximately 25 feet in depth, one of which was filled with several feet of water. The walls of the excavations were at an angle, which would prevent anyone from climbing out if they were to fall in. The excavation containing water posed a serious threat for possible drowning if a child were to fall into it. Neither the property nor the excavations were secured in any way to prevent anyone from walking onto the property and falling into the excavations.

A violation of Riverside County Code (Ordinance 421 - Unprotected Excavations) was found at the location and posed an immediate threat to life and/or limb of the general public; therefore, Officer Dietrich contacted his supervisor and initiated the process for a summary abatement in order to eliminate the threat. Officer Dietrich posted all appropriate noticing on the property and surrounded the open excavations with caution tape. The officer made every attempt to contact the property owner to request that the hazard be mitigated; however, the owner was unable to be reached. Officer Dietrich proceeded with the summary abatement process and subsequently contractors were appointed. The excavations were filled in before the day's end thus removing the immediate threat to the general public.



SUMMARY ABATEMENT

Often, the Code Enforcement Department becomes aware of situations that may require a summary abatement. Violations such as unfenced pools with water, hazardous electrical, hazardous gas, open excavation and wells are a public nuisance that constitute an immediate threat to public health, safety or welfare and need immediate attention and resolution. Pursuant to *California Government Code* Section 25845(a), the enforcement officer is authorized to summarily abate public nuisances in a timely manner and provide a safe environment in the community. The above are a few examples of Riverside County Code Enforcement officers' dealings with imminent dangers and their outcomes.

QUICK ACTION TO REMOVE AN OPEN EXCAVATION - *District 2*

Senior Officer Marcella Villanueva received a priority-one call in supervisorial district two regarding an open excavation in which an 18-month-old toddler had fallen into on the previous day. The reporting party was the toddler's grandmother, who stated her daughter was watching her son play in the front yard of the property when an area of grass gave way, and he disappeared into a hole. The hole was described as approximately six feet deep and three feet



wide with a standing, mud-type substance. The reporting party went on to explain that the hole did not previously exist, and there had only been a slight indentation in the grass. The toddler's mother went into the hole to pull her son out, but was unable to see him. The mother felt around for him and was able to lift him up and place him onto her shoulders to rescue him out of the hole. Another child who was also outside and witnessed the incident ran into the house to alert other family members, who rushed outside to assist the mother and her child.

Both mother and child went to the hospital to be examined and the toddler was cleared; however, the mother sustained a minor injury to her shoulder when pulling her son from the hole. The hole turned out to be a seepage pit in which the lid had collapsed. The displaced lid appeared to be what the mother and child were standing on while inside the hole, and it prevented them from falling 30 ft. into the pit.



Prior to responding to the location, the Code Enforcement staff contacted the management company responsible for the rental property. The management company was informed of the summary abatement process requiring them to immediately correct the hazardous condition. Senior Officer Villanueva and Code Officer Diana Parra arrived at the location and made contact with the reporting party to explain the process to address the existing hazard. The area was cordoned off with caution tape and "Danger. Do Not Enter" signs were posted along with the Summary Abatement of Public Nuisance Notice.

The management company immediately contracted a plumbing company to make the necessary repairs. The site was secured until repairs could be performed over the next few days. Code Enforcement personnel monitored the process to its completion. The hole was dug out, a new lid was placed over the pit, and the hole was backfilled to secure the area.

This incident highlights the importance of the Code Enforcement Department's assistance in remediating hazardous conditions in the community.

GAS LEAK IN THOUSAND PALMS - *District 4*

Senior Code Enforcement Officer Hector Herrera was called to investigate a report of a structural fire in Thousand Palms. On arrival, he identified a structure that sustained fire damage mostly in the master bedroom and attic. While gathering all the information needed to have the utilities disconnected, the officer smelled an odor of natural gas coming from the meter. Although the service line was closed, and a lock was placed on the unit, Officer Herrera called the gas company, and a technician arrived within five minutes

The structure is located in close proximity to an elementary school, and the street is one of the main thoroughways to the school. The technician could not believe that there was a gas leak that could have caused more structural damage or injury to the residents in this community. The gas technician immediately removed the meter.



2012 Seasonal Events

JOEY'S PALS -District 5

Code Enforcement staff from the District 5 office participated in the Joey's Pals Christmas event that was held at the Marion Ashley Community Center. Joey's Pals is a non-profit organization that provides scholarships and Christmas gifts to children in the community. All children in attendance received a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus, a candy cane, a toy from Santa's Workshop, and a free lunch. This year's event was a great success with a record of 822 children and 319 families being served.



TIS' THE SEASON FOR GIVING

-District 1, Perris Office and City of Perris

In lieu of their annual holiday office celebrations this year, Code Enforcement officers in the City of Perris and in the District 1, Perris office showed their holiday spirit by adopting families in need. The staff in our District 1, Perris office adopted three families from the Good Hope area. One family was presented with a complete turkey dinner and a gift card to the Stater Bros. market. Another family with four children was provided with tennis shoes, and the third family was given clothes and toys. All families accepted the gifts, and the children were excited about their presents.

Meanwhile, the staff providing code enforcement services to the City of Perris decided to adopt Corey Rosenberg. Corey is a mentally disabled man that the staff has come to know and has drawn close to during his daily treks through the municipal campus in Perris. He lives with his aunt, Barbara Guerrero, who is his only living relative. Corey and his aunt live on \$1,100 per month, and the money he earns through recycling bottles and cans that he collects throughout the community.

Staff dipped into their own pockets and were able to provide Corey and his aunt with clothing, candy, used video games, a Nintendo DS, sneakers, and other holiday treats.



Gifts brought smiles to the children's faces



City of Perris and Riverside County Code Enforcement staff with Corey Rosenberg



Needy family with four kids receive gifts from our supervisorial District 1, Perris Office staff



Corey Rosenberg and his aunt Barbara Guerrero appreciated the gifts they received from staff

TANKFUL COMMUNITY

- District 1 (Perris Office)

A vacant parcel located on David Jones Road and Hwy. 74 in the unincorporated community of Good Hope was the site of illegal dumping for many years. The property owner had been given notice of the accumulated rubbish violation numerous times without conclusion. During this time, the property owner fell ill and passed away. The parcel subsequently went into probate, which extended the clean-up even longer. After tracking down the executor of the estate, the rubbish was cleaned up immediately. The tank, however, was another story. Due to the special handling required to clean up a spill and remove the tank, the new owner had trouble completing the clean-up. With diligence, the owner secured the necessary funds to complete the clean-up and removal of the tank.

The community was TANKFUL it was gone after so many years.



WHERE'S CODE ENFORCEMENT?

District 1 Perris Office 951-490-4000

227 North D Street, Suite B, Perris, CA 92570

District 1 Cajalco Office 951-776-3233

17650 Cajalco Road, Perris, CA 92570

District 2 Office 951-955-5650

4080 Lemon Street, 2nd Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

District 3 French Valley Office 951-696-1606

37600 Sky Canyon Drive, Suite G #507, Murrieta, CA 92563

District 4 Palm Desert Office 760-393-3344

38686 El Cerrito Road, Suite 200, Palm Desert, CA 92211

District 5 San Jacinto Office 951-791-3900

581 South Grand Avenue, San Jacinto, CA 92582

Code Enforcement Administration 951-955-2004

4080 Lemon Street, 12th Floor, Riverside, CA 92501

www.rctlma.org/ce

To verify which district your community is a part of please go to our website:

www.rctlma.org/ce

COMING TOGETHER FOR THE COMMUNITY

- District 1 (Cajalco Office)

Staff from the Riverside County Code Enforcement Department's Cajalco office joined efforts with the Economic Development Agency, Environmental Health, Waste Management, and Board of Supervisor's office in offering assistance to the residents of the Gavilan Hills area (supervisory district one) with the cleaning of their properties.

Forty-foot (40') dumpsters were made available for the residents to bring rubbish and other items from their properties and discard them into the dumpsters. The Cajalco office staff also provided assistance to the residents who did not have the means of hauling the rubbish themselves by offering the use of a Code Enforcement pickup that was driven by an officer. Multiple trips were made from various properties to and from the dumpsters.

The area residents expressed their gratitude for receiving the help from the participating County departments.

