PRESS RELEASE

PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Gary Lobaugh
Pennsylvania American Water
T: 724-873-3674
M: 724-944-5148
gary.lobaugh@amwater.com

PENNSYLVANIA AMERICAN WATER ALERTS PUBLIC ABOUT UNAUTHORIZED HYDRANT USE

HERSHEY, Pa. (June 21, 2012) – With summertime heat taking hold across the commonwealth, Pennsylvania American Water reminded the public today that only authorized individuals are permitted to use fire hydrants.

"Summer often leads to an increase in the unauthorized use of hydrants," said Steve Tambini, Pennsylvania American Water's vice president of operations. "Although opening a fire hydrant to cool off might seem like a good idea, there can be serious and dangerous consequences."

Unauthorized use can cause damage to a fire hydrant, rendering it inoperative when needed to fight fires. Oftentimes, these damages are not discovered until hydrants are inspected, or by firefighters when called to an emergency. "The sole purpose of hydrants is fire protection," says Tambini. "Pressure from an open hydrant can cause serious injury to those not properly trained on how to operate it."

In recent months, Pennsylvania American Water reached out to communities in its service areas to raise awareness about preventing the unauthorized use of its water infrastructure. In addition, Pennsylvania American Water works closely with local fire departments. The company requires that fire hydrant use for non-emergencies and training purposes be coordinated in advance.

Unplanned, non-emergency use can compromise the reliability of the hydrants and disrupt the company's ability to provide high-quality, reliable water service to customers. Furthermore, unauthorized hydrant use can reduce water pressure in the system and affect water service and quality. Reduced pressure is not only an inconvenience for customers, but it can also create a dangerous situation should a fire or other legitimate need occur in another part of the water system.

If you see unauthorized use of a hydrant, please contact your local police department or Pennsylvania American Water's customer service center at 1-800-565-7292.

Pennsylvania American Water, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Water (NYSE: AWK), is the largest water utility in the state, providing high-quality and reliable water and/or wastewater services to approximately 2.2 million people. Founded in 1886, American Water is the largest publicly traded U.S. water and wastewater utility company. With headquarters in Voorhees, N.J., the company employs approximately 7,000 dedicated professionals who provide drinking water, wastewater and other related services to an estimated 15 million people in more than 30 states and parts of Canada. More information can be found by visiting www.amwater.com.

# # #