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MEDIA RELEASE

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Case Number: 08-002546

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Grass Valley Police Respond To Bleach Leak

GRASS VALLEY, CA – At approximately 11:30pm Tuesday evening, Grass Valley Police responded to a citizen's report of a chemical odor in the 100 Block of Alta Vista Dr. Initial information from the caller suggested that the smell may be chlorine.

Grass Valley Police and the California Department of Fire personnel responding to the area quickly identified the odor as coming from the City's Water Treatment Plant located at 10609 Alta St. Further investigation found that the facility had experienced a leak of product identified as sodium hypochlorite, more commonly referred to as bleach. This product, originally stored and used to treat water at the facility, was believed to have leaked from a connector hose causing an undetermined quantity of product to flow from the storage tank.

Due to the nature of the leak, additional assistance was requested from the Nevada County Sheriff's Office whereby residents within a quarter mile of the facility were contacted "door-to-door" as well as by telephone through the County's Reverse 9-1-1 system at 4:20am and advised of the potential hazard. Additionally, the nearly 300 residents were requested to shelter in place until which time the extent of the leak and any long term hazards could be determined.

One City employee working in close proximity to the leak was transported to Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital for treatment from exposure to the concentrated bleach.

Nevada County Office of Emergency Services also responded to the scene to assist with the evaluation of the incident. Additional information can be obtained from the OES at 530.265.7000.

The incident remains under investigation at this time. Further information will be forthcoming as it is received.

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