



For Immediate Release

Gas Explosion Partially Damages NHA's Development

Newark, NJ, June 25, 2009 – At approximately 7:30 a.m. today, the Newark Fire Department swiftly responded to a gas explosion at our Oriental Village development, 55 Oriental Place. Fire officials discovered an unidentified squatter, with burn wounds, in the vacant apartment unit. That victim was transported to a hospital. The damage was confined to one unit and there were no other injuries caused to our residents. An arson investigation is ongoing.

The squatter found in the unit had broken into the vacant unit after a family living there moved out without consulting the Newark Housing Authority of their move. That family was scheduled for an eviction proceeding on June 30, but vacated apartment early. Housing officials were not made aware the family had moved out prior to eviction date.

"We want to thank the Newark Fire Department and PSE&G for their quick response to the explosion," said Executive Director Keith Kinard. "We also want to thank our residents for keeping composure during this early-morning ordeal."

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