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**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## **SUEZ AND TOMS RIVER FIRE PREVENTION JOINTLY ASK RESIDENTS TO ASSIST WITH FIRE HYDRANT CLEARING FOLLOWING WINTER STORM JONAS**

**TOMS RIVER, NJ** - SUEZ, along with Toms River Fire Prevention, ask all residents to take steps to remove accumulated and drifting snow from fire hydrants following Winter Storm Jonas this past weekend.

“Our service area received record amounts of snow and many residents continue to clear out property following the winter storm over the weekend,” said Jim Mastrokalos, Director of Operations. “We’re asking our customers to please help by taking a few extra minutes to remove snow from fire hydrants located in front of homes and businesses,” he added.

The International Fire Codes for New Jersey, Section 508, “Fire Protection Water Supplies” includes regulations governing the safeguarding of life and property pertaining to access to and obstruction of fire hydrants, particularly subsection 508.5.4 and 508.5.5.

“It’s critical to maintain sustainable water supplies to battle fires and especially important that our fire department personnel can quickly locate fire hydrants,” said Jim Mercready, Toms River Fire Prevention Director. “By taking a few extra minutes to clear a three-foot space around the circumference of fire hydrants will allow responding units the quick access needed in case of emergencies,” Mercready added.

When sweeping or shoveling snow from driveways or walks, fire hydrants should be cleared all around, enabling fire hoses enough room to expand.

“Residents are also reminded not to block fire hydrants with vehicles,” Mercready said. “Vehicles cannot be parked any closer than 15 feet from a fire hydrant in any direction,” he said.

SUEZ customers are asked to report any leaking, broken, or malfunctioning hydrants to the company’s customer service center at 877-565-1456.

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### **About SUEZ North America**

SUEZ North America operates across all 50 states and Canada with 3,430 employees dedicated to environmental sustainability and leading the resource revolution. The company owns 15 regulated water utilities, provides contracted public-private partnership services to 84 municipalities, offers water treatment and advanced network solutions to 16,000 industrial and municipal sites, provides drinking water, wastewater and waste collection service to nearly 7.5 million people on a daily basis, processes 55,000 tons of waste for recycling and manages \$3.3 billion in total assets. The company posted revenues of \$1.1 billion in 2014 and is a subsidiary of Paris-based SUEZ.

### **About Toms River Fire Prevention**

Toms River Fire Prevention’s mission is to provide fire safety education to the citizens of Toms River, schools, businesses and civic groups. Toms River Fire Prevention also resolves to pursue codes, standards, and engineering practices that enhance fire safety in homes and workplaces as well as enforcement of existing regulations which embrace the organization’s overall mission.

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