

Tampering of Standpipe Leads to \$3.4 Million in Damage

KNOX STANDPIPE LOCKS NOW INSTALLED TO PREVENT FUTURE VANDALISM

Tacoma Housing Authority

WHAT HAPPENED

In March 2023, a resident at a Tacoma Housing Authority's (THA) property tampered with the standpipe located at the top floor stairwell of the building, causing immediate water discharge. The vandalism of the building's fire suppression system resulted in rapid and significant flooding throughout the building and the sound of rushing water flowing down the stairway woke up many residents. The fire department responded quickly and shut off the water promptly. However, the damaged system had flooded approximately 75% of the two-year-old building.



THE DAMAGE

Fifty of the 64 units in the building were identified as impacted by the flooding and needed significant repairs. The total damage was \$3.4 million, and repairs to the units took several months to complete.

THE FALLOUT FROM THE DAMAGE

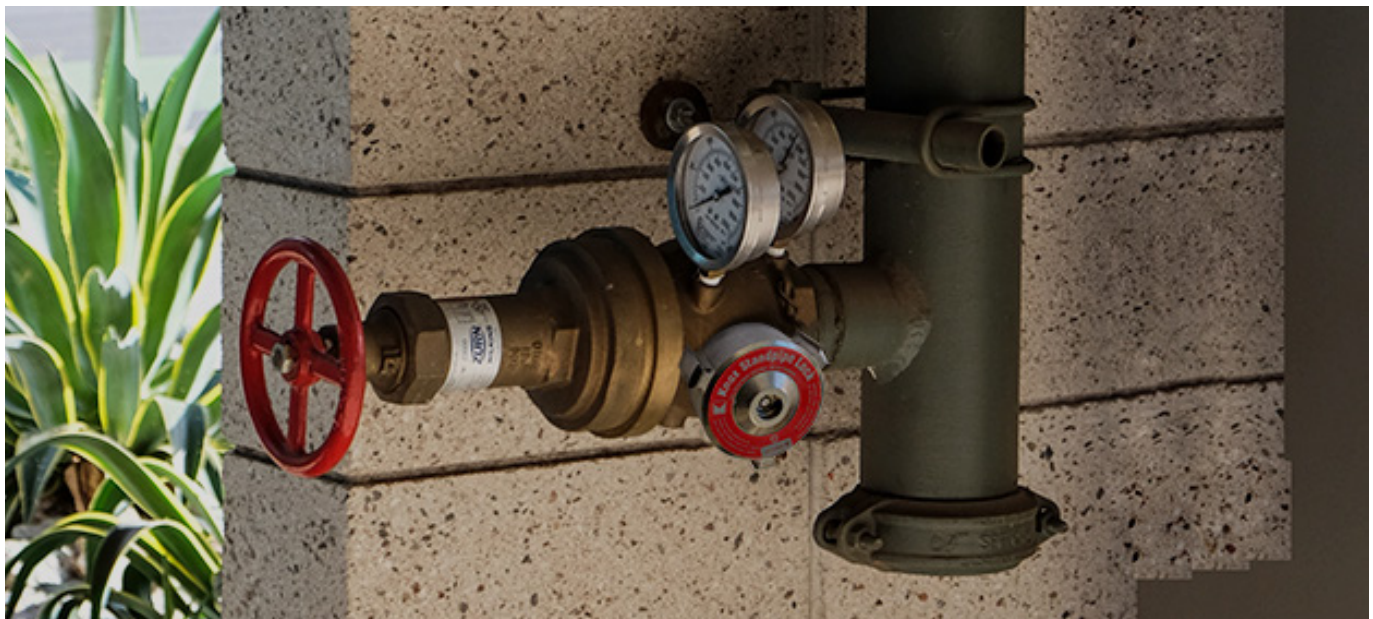
In addition to the costly repairs, all residents in impacted units were temporarily relocated to hotels or with family and friends. The residents remained relocated for various lengths depending on their individual unit damage level and mobility issues. The longest resident was relocated nearly 90 days due to mobility issues and the elevators being down. All of the displaced residents qualified as low-income, and many were elderly, disabled, veterans, or families with young children.



SOLUTION

In response to this devastating incident and following discussions with the fire department, the Tacoma Housing Authority took decisive action. They chose to install **Knox Standpipe Locks**, deemed the most effective solution to prevent such losses in the future, and promptly installed these locking caps across all 15 THA buildings that required them.

The Knox Standpipe Lock protects standpipes and hydrant hose connections from accidental damage, vandalism, and physical attack. Since the Knox Standpipe Lock holds water pressure, it can also be installed on fire hydrants to help prevent water theft. The Knox Standpipe Lock is available for 2.5" to 3" connections with varying thread options and is operated with a Knox FDC Wrench controlled by the fire department.



For more information on Knox Standpipe Lock®, please **call 800.552.5669** or **visit knoxbox.com/Standpipe-Lock**



ABOUT THE KNOX COMPANY

Since 1975, the Knox Company has successfully developed innovative rapid access solutions for first responders with products that provide fast, safe, and secure entry into commercial, industrial, and residential properties, while minimizing damage and maximizing safety. Today, more than 15,000 fire, EMS, and law enforcement departments/agencies depend on Knox products to gain access into over one million buildings/properties.



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