

## PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### TIDEWATER SHOWS APPRECIATION TO LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS DURING NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Dover, Delaware – October 20, 2006 – Tidewater Utilities, Inc. hosted an appreciation dinner on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> for local Delaware Fire Departments in its continuing effort to promote fire safety and show its appreciation and support during National Fire Prevention Week. The event was an opportunity for local fire professionals and Tidewater to get together to discuss matters of mutual interest, primarily relating to fire service and Tidewater's community water systems within their fire districts. Tidewater provided the companies with fire district maps highlighting locations of various hydrants to assist the firefighting community in their emergency response efforts.

As a public water utility, Tidewater Utilities, Inc. is dedicated to the provision of safe, adequate and proper water service for those communities where Tidewater Utilities is the water utility provider. "Having an abundant water supply and providing adequate fire protection for Delaware residents in the 270 communities we serve is Tidewater's primary focus," said Gerard L. Esposito, Tidewater's President. "We appreciate the support and dedication of our local fire departments and the opportunity to work together in promoting public health and safety."

Tidewater, established in 1964, provides service to retail water and wastewater customers, south of the C&D Canal. Presently, the Company serves almost 30,000 homes and business in the State. Through its affiliated companies, Tidewater serves a wide range of water and wastewater services including consulting, contract operations and maintenance, and bulk water supply. Tidewater is a subsidiary of Middlesex Water Company (NASDAQ:MSEX), a leading water provider in New Jersey. For more information about Tidewater Utilities, visit our website at [www.tuiwater.com](http://www.tuiwater.com)