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**NEWS RELEASE**

**For More Information**

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**SFCC Fitness Center Evacuated  
Following Leak of Pool Chemicals**

**Santa Fe, NM, Aug. 9, 2006** — The Santa Fe Community College William C. Witter Fitness Education Center was evacuated and temporarily closed Wednesday morning following a hydrochloric acid leak outside the aquatic center.

No one was hurt but the center remained closed for several hours as fire officials neutralized the spill and determined if the building was safe for re-entry.

Hydrochloric acid, also known as muriatic acid, is used to lower the pH in the swimming pools. Officials suspect that the leak occurred when a small crack formed in a barrel containing the acid, which was located in a storage area just outside the aquatic center.

Approximately two-dozen students were evacuated when the spill was discovered at 6:45 a.m. The college's fitness center will re-open at 2 p.m. and the pools will remain closed all day.

**About Santa Fe Community College**

Santa Fe Community College serves more than 14,500 students per year in its credit, noncredit and adult basic education programs. For further information, visit [www.sfccnm.edu](http://www.sfccnm.edu) or call (505) 428-1000.

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