



Cold Weather Briefing January 12, 2018 4:30 PM

The work to complete main breaks from this winter emergency was drawing to a successful conclusion today as the next cold weather front arrived. Temperatures dropped throughout the morning and dropped below freezing by late afternoon; overnight lows on Friday are expected to reach twenty-three degrees.

Improved water pressure throughout the system combined with clear water quality tests resulted in the boil water advisory being lifted for downtown and other areas. Be sure to monitor Code Red for specific information on the areas that remain affected by the advisory.

Demand for water supplied from the treatment plants continues to be stable and we are able to continuously maintain the maximum safe level of pressure leaving the treatment plants while maintaining safe reserves in our finished water clearwells at the plants.

Water system management and engineering personnel continued checking pressure at fire hydrants in the remaining areas still experiencing lower-than-normal pressures in an attempt to identify possible closed valves that may be affecting water flow through the system. A few six inch valves were found closed and returned to the open position. It is not an unusual occurrence in water systems to experience valves that remain inadvertently closed following main break repairs that occurred months or even years previously.

As of 1:00 PM today, we had experienced a total of one hundred forty-three confirmed water main breaks on distribution lines since Sunday January 1.

January 1	7
January 2	14
January 3	16
January 4	22
January 5	19
January 6	14
January 7	14
January 8	13
January 9	7
January 10	6
January 11	8
January 12	3 as of 1:00 PM

We had three city crews and eight contractor crews working today to finalize repair these breaks.

As of 1:00 PM today, we had successfully completed one hundred one breaks with sixteen additional repairs underway for completion this afternoon. Several of the new breaks were adjacent to repairs that were recently completed on aging pipes. Falling temperatures did not disrupt repair efforts.

As of 1:00 PM today, there are twenty-six confirmed breaks that had not yet been assigned to city crews or contractor crews but will be assigned for completion later this afternoon or over the weekend. We will be using city crews and a reduced number of contractor crews to complete the remaining breaks. Crews that have been working ten and or more straight days of twelve hour shifts will be scheduled for days off over the weekend. There are six leaks reported by citizens calling 311 that have not yet been confirmed as water main breaks.

We are closely watching the weather forecast for this coming weekend and the following week as nighttime lows are expected to return to reach into the low teens by Tuesday morning. We are doing everything possible to ensure that our water treatment plants and field repair crews are ready to face these extreme cold temperatures.

We intend to keep the community posted as this situation develops.