

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 7, 2024
TO: Environmental Services Commission
FROM: Chad Beck, Assistant Director, Operations & Maintenance
SUBJECT: Emergency Response – Bellevue Way Case Study

ACTION REQUIRED

No action required.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS

Just after midnight on the morning of February 2, 2024, a section of 12" AC watermain broke under the intersection of Bellevue Way and SE 10th Street. The burst pipe immediately flooded the intersection at a rate of over 1000 gallons per minute. The broken pipe happened to be a major supply line providing primary water supply to the Meydenbauer neighborhood west of Bellevue Way. The break caused a significant loss of pressure throughout the neighborhood, risking the infiltration of contaminants into the water supply.

Within the hours that followed, standby personnel from Bellevue Utilities and Transportation departments mobilized to assess the situation, isolate the broken section of pipe, quickly make needed repairs, and communicate critical information to the general public. The quick response and seamless coordination across City of Bellevue Utilities and Transportation teams reduced the immediate traffic and water supply impacts to the surrounding community and ultimately led to the prompt restoration of potable water service.

This presentation will highlight the emergency response actions and capabilities of the Utilities Operations & Maintenance division—personnel across six different sections and all three piped utilities supported the response effort. We will detail how this break was detected by our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system within minutes of the break and automatically notified system operators. We will also detail how our Water Quality team coordinated with the Washington State Department of Health to assess the geographic extent of system pressure loss, the need for a cautionary boil water notice to protect public health, and the rapid testing within the days that followed to verify the absence of bacterial contaminants. Finally, we will explain how we coordinated with Utilities Engineering Division to leveraged a nearby Capital Improvement Project to complete an opportunistic permanent replacement of the entire 12" AC main under this busy intersection and bring this critical supply line up to present day engineering standards.

POLICY ISSUES

There are no policy issues associated with this presentation. This presentation is for information only.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementing these changes.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

None.