



MEMORANDUM

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Action

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Information

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Discussion

DATE: March 4, 2021
TO: Environmental Services Commission
FROM: Anthony Marcum, Utilities Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Anatomy of a Watermain Break

Action Required at this Time

No action by the Commission is required at this time. This is an informational briefing regarding water main breaks.

Staff will be providing a short presentation on what goes into responding to a watermain break. On average, Bellevue responds to approximately 30 watermain breaks a year. Watermain breaks come in all levels of severity and associated impacts - from a relatively minor circumferential crack on a cast iron or ductile iron pipe, to a full blow-out of an asbestos cement (AC) pipe that can cause significant damage to the environment and both personal and public property.

In addition to watermain breaks, Utilities also responds to and repairs approximately 170 service line leaks in the Right-of-Way on the city-owned portion of the service line before the water meter.

The presentation will focus on these key areas in responding to a water main break:

- Preparedness
- Risk Assessment
- Response and Customer Service
- Recovery

Fiscal Impact

None

Policy Issues

None

Background

The ESC was briefed in January 2021, on our AC main replacement strategy. During that presentation, some information was given on water main breaks but at a very high level. The intent of this briefing is to dive deeper into what goes into preparedness, response and recovery from a significant water main break.

Attachments

None