



THE
PIPELINE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

August 2024

Message from Jeff Grimsdell, Operations & Maintenance Superintendent



As Operations & Maintenance Superintendent for Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, I oversee all of our employees who maintain, repair, and support our vast network of water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure. Within SLCDPU's service area, there are 1,324 miles of water distribution pipe, 679 miles of sewer collections pipe, and 360 miles of stormwater conveyance pipe. We're responsible for over 2,300 miles of pipe as well as the facilities and fixtures required to make our system work – it's no small job, but we love doing it.

A significant portion of our employees' time is dedicated to regular maintenance. These are the activities that we do every day to keep our system running at its best. A few examples of these regular maintenance tasks include:

- Cleaning the areas in and around stormwater inlets, detention basins, and other City structures which are intended to control localized flooding.
- Using remotely operated television technology to assess the condition of underground sewer collection to determine whether additional cleaning or repairs are needed.
- Exercising the many valves throughout our water distribution network to ensure they work properly when we need to use them and to increase their lifespan.

Salt Lake City's water distribution network is the oldest in the state. Regular maintenance helps us to support that aging infrastructure and to manage our upgrade and repair requirements. Despite our best efforts, conditions outside of our control also impact our system: aging infrastructure fails; unusually high-water usage can lead to pressure spikes in certain areas, which can damage pipes; weather conditions, like drastic temperature changes, place stress on the distribution network. These factors, along with others, can lead to or cause breaks. We do everything in our power to prevent the unexpected, but emergencies still occur. Water main breaks are one type of emergency we face that tends to be most impactful to our community.

Some causes of water main breaks, such as temperature changes, are seasonal and help to explain why you might see more water main breaks at certain times of the year. During the summer, a combination of cooler overnight temperatures with hotter days can place more stress on our system. SLCDPU's maintenance crews are familiar with this cycle. With the changes of season, we gear up to respond to main breaks.

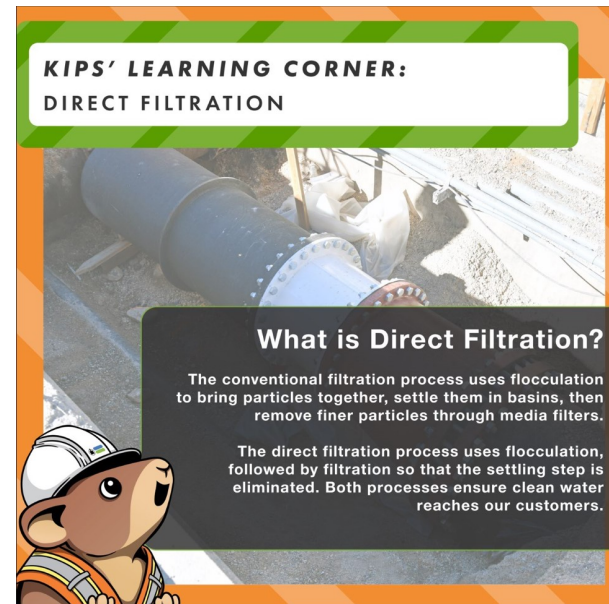
Our maintenance crews are excellent when it comes to responding to emergency water main breaks. Repairing water mains can be complex. It is our goal to work safely and to minimize further damage, while also completing the repairs as quickly as possible. We know all too well that a broken water main often leaves some of our community members without access to water.

There are ways you can prepare yourself to undergo a situation like this in which you are without running water for a short period of time. Our team has collected some resources and tips that you might find helpful. [Click here](#) to learn more about the steps you can take to improve your water resiliency in the face of an emergency. Know too that if you are impacted by a water emergency, like a main break, it is our top priority to restore water service as quickly and as safely as possible.

Emergency water outages

In July 2024, [City Creek Water Treatment Plant](#) formally switched from conventional to direct filtration. Utilizing direct filtration will enable our continued reliance on City Creek as a drinking water source for our community. This was a critical milestone in our CCWTP upgrades project and allows us to move forward with construction activities as planned.

[Learn more about the CCWTP upgrades project](#)



Project Updates

Salt Lake City's Department of Public Utilities manages a number of construction projects to maintain and improve our system. Many of these projects are smaller in scale but we've highlighted a few of our larger projects below. If you're interested in learning more about other SLCDPU projects, please [visit our website](#).

1800 N. Sewer Realignment: Crews are making significant progress on phase 2 of the sewer realignment project in northwest Salt Lake City, which is providing much-needed repairs and improvements to the local sanitary sewer system.

2100 S. Sewer Upsize: Sewer upsizing on 2100 South is continuing westbound. Workers are currently in the area between 1500 East and View Street, with a new traffic pattern in place. Traffic patterns change as work progresses. Use our maps to plan your Sugar House trips. [Sign up](#) for the weekly email update or visit our [website](#) to find the latest. The 2100 South Sewer Upsize project is one piece of a larger road construction project in the area. Completing utility projects in conjunction with road construction enables us to minimize long-term traffic impacts. [Click here](#) to learn about the 2100 South project.



Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities | Salt Lake City

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Administrative Offices: 1530 S. West Temple Street | Salt Lake City, UT | 84104
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