**What Are Water Mains?**

Water mains are pipes that carry drinking water to homes and businesses. The City of Temples water mains range from 12 inches to two inch in diameter, but most are six inches.

**Water Main Breaks**

As more than 70 percent of Temples infrastructure is 50 years or older, breaks in the pipes are both unavoidable and unpredictable. Each break brings its own set of challenges. Small breaks are easier to fix, but can be harder to find. Large breaks can wreak havoc on traffic and sometimes cause damaging floods and water shortages.

**What causes breaks?**

In addition to age, other factors in water main breaks include:

* Installation configuration
* Previous repairs
* Variations in water pressure
* Corrosion
* Seasonal temperature changes

**How do you fix a leak?**

Once a crew finds a leak, it closes the valves on the pipe to stop the flow of water to the broken section. This might cause a temporary service disruption to some properties. After isolating the broken section, the crew repairs or replaces it depending on the type and severity of the break.

In most cases, repairs are made within several hours to a day after the first report. However, repairs on major water transmission mains may require complex repairs that take longer to complete.

**Weather and Water Mains**

Cold weather and freezing temperatures create stress on our water and sewer infrastructure, increasing the chance of leaks. With approximately 22 miles of water mains and 18 miles of sanitary sewer pipes to monitor, residents play a crucial role in reporting breaks.

**Repairing the Main**

When a water main break is confirmed, a crew will set up a work zone and detour traffic. The crew will also turn off the main (immediately if needed) and contact 811 to mark the various utilities near the break as required by law. After the utilities have been marked, the crew will excavate and secure a trench and begin repairs. Crews work continuously to repair breaks and restore water service; however, unforeseen challenges can arise causing the process to take longer.

**Resident Information**

During normal business hours Monday-Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm residents can contact City Hall for water service interruption information. After Hours and weekends residents can contact Carroll County 911 services for water service interruption information. It’s always a good idea to have a few gallons of water stored away in case of emergency.

**When Water Service Is Restored**

In most cases, when the water pressure returns, you’ll need to run the cold water tap for a few minutes to clear the pipes. Use of hot water may draw discolored water into your hot water heater. If after five minutes you still notice discoloration or a strange odor call [770-562-8607](tel:+17032286555). A crew can be dispatched to flush the system through fire hydrants in the area.