



CANYON LAKE SEWERLEAK INCIDENT AND EVMWD RESPONSE

WHAT HAPPENED – SEWER SPILL EXPLAINED

- On the evening of Dec. 18, 2023, a sewer leak was reported at the Village Lift Station, located behind 22309 Canyon Lake Drive South.
- The leak occurred in a 10” PVC force main (sewer pressure pipe).
- The unexpected failure could not have been prevented through regular maintenance or inspection.
- EVMWD staff responded within 40 minutes of the first call and successfully turned off the pumps.
- The majority of the leak was contained within the block-walled perimeter of the pump station, reentering the sewer system.
- A total of 9,762 gallons were estimated to enter the lake, leading to the closure of the lake by the POA.
- One resident was unfortunately impacted by the leak.

RESPONSE TAKEN - EVMWD IN ACTION

- The health and safety of the community is EVMWD’s top priority.
- EVMWD staff took immediate samples at the point of entry and various locations in the lake.
- Initial results indicated elevated bacteriological numbers near the leak, prompting continued sampling until safe levels were achieved.
- All regulatory agencies were promptly notified, and incident reports were filed within required timeframes.
- EVMWD is actively collaborating with the one affected homeowner impacted by the leak.

INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES

- EVMWD’s sewer pipes are underground and share space with other utilities such as gas/ electric, making them susceptible to various factors leading to failures, in addition to other variables such as type of construction, pipeline material and age, corrosion, etc.

LAKE BACTERIA LEVELS AND RUNOFF

- Bacteriological levels in lakes can rise due to sewer spills or runoff from rain entering the lake.
- EVMWD employs measures to mitigate runoff impacts, including implementing stormwater management strategies.



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SEWER SPILL PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AND GENERAL INFORMATION

ENSURING SYSTEM INTEGRITY

- The health and safety of our community is EVMWD's top priority
- EVMWD is committed to preventing sewer leaks by implementing stringent maintenance practices and proactive monitoring of the sewer system.
- Regular inspections are conducted to identify potential issues before they escalate.
- EVMWD has developed Master Plans for water, sewer, and recycled water, which undergoes updates every five years. The Master Plans outline the actions needed to maintain, repair and replace infrastructure to ensure the long-term reliability of our systems.
- The Master Plans identify pipelines and systems that need to be replaced and are prioritized based on a variety of criteria including but not limited to age, condition, and the risk of failure.
- EVMWD has invested in and is implementing an asset management plan leveraging cutting-edge technology, which will allow us to actively monitor asset conditions and prioritize infrastructure replacement needs.

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO SEWER LEAKS

- Sewer leaks and pipeline failures can result from a combination of factors, including construction methods, pipe materials, age, and external influences like seismic activity.

COLLABORATION WITH HOMEOWNERS

- Public health and safety is our top priority. If a sewer leak causes damage to private property, EVMWD collaborates with homeowners to address any damages caused by sewer leaks, fostering a cooperative approach to resolving incidents.
- EVMWD actively engages with the community to raise awareness about the factors influencing sewer leaks and the district's efforts to maintain water quality.
- EVMWD is available to customers 24/7. When experiencing a sewer emergency, customers can call 951-674-3146. For after hour emergencies, press 7 to reach the afterhours emergency line.

KEEPING CONTAMINANTS OUT OF STORM DRAINS AND LAKES

- Limit use of fertilizers and pesticides near lakes
- No washing vehicles or boats
- No dumping paints or other chemicals in drains
- Clean up pet waste



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