



UPDATE FROM MAYOR TRANTALIS REGARDING WATER SUPPLY

Thursday, July 18, 2019, 6:00 p.m. -- I have some good news to report. A solution seems to be at hand to today's emergency that resulted from a break in a major water main. Our staff is fairly confident of a repair plan underway and expects to know for sure in the hours ahead.

Our public works staff and their contractors have developed a solution to deal with the break and are in the process of implementing it. Water is now flowing ... albeit at a lower pressure than normal ... and should be back to near normal sometime this evening.

As you know, a contractor yesterday broke a 42-inch city pipe that supplies water from our wellfields to the water treatment plant. As a result, we lost water supply to the city and the other cities that we serve.

So, here is what we're doing to make the necessary repairs.

We managed to put a partial patch in the hole in the water main. Water pressure began increasing as a result. We are now building a concrete bunker around the broken part of the pipe that will seal the break. It will protect the patch and shore the pipe up from any breaks.

The bunker should be completed by 10 p.m. and should allow the Fiveash Water Treatment Plant to return to near normal operation. This will give us time to work on a permanent repair which will entail redirecting the water flow to a backup line. There are two options to accomplish the transfer to the backup line — either by using shutoff valves or by building a temporary bypass.

Once the water is flowing through the backup line, we will be able to install a replacement pipe to the primary main.

Please remember that even if these solutions succeed, the boil water notice remains in effect and will likely last for at least 48 hours.

It is imperative that folks in the affected areas continue to boil their water prior to consuming it. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice.

Because the boil water remains in effect, we will reopen distribution points around the city and continue to provide bottled water to residents in need. Those sites are at Mills Pond Park, the Beach Community Center and Riverland Park. We expect to operate these sites through the length of the boil water notice.

I would like to thank Gov. DeSantis and his emergency preparedness director, Jared Moskowitz, for allowing us quick access to the state's bottled water reserves. They have sent about 100,000 bottles of water.

I am also happy to report that we have received no reports of any significant issues as a result of the water emergency. Broward County and the city were in contact with critical care facilities to ensure any needs were met, but we received no requests for special assistance.

I would like to thank city staff, particularly the Public Works Department, for a quick response to a crisis. It speaks well for the city's ability to respond to the unexpected emergencies.

If residents have any concerns or questions, please call our 24-hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000.

With the anticipated resolution to the water break, the city will focus on investigating how this accident occurred. As I stated earlier today, Florida Communication Concepts, a subcontractor repairing electric lines for FPL struck and damaged the main at Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport. They have been cited and we have launched an enforcement action.

We will provide updates as available.

Sincerely,



Dean J. Trantalis
Mayor