

WATER DEPARTMENT

NEWS AND UPDATES

WHAT TO DO AFTER A MAIN BREAK



The first sign of a main break may be low pressure, no water, dirty and discolored water, or waking up to a lot of air in the line and dirty looking water.

During a main break visit Surfside's webpage and Facebook page for updates on the break, and for any boil water notices. Boil water notices will also be posted on signs at the road entrances into Surfside.

Here are a few simple steps to perform once water is restored:

- **Flush your water line.** Usually an outdoor faucet or a bath tub faucet works best. Although the water department flushes water mains after a break, dirt and debris can still enter the water system. Dirt and debris can plug faucet screens or clog or damage appliances. Flush the water until it changes temperature and runs clear, usually about 5 minutes.
- **After flushing the main line, flush sink faucets.** Consider running a small empty load through the washer if the water was particularly dirty. Remember to flush refrigerator water taps. If you have a multi-story home start with the top floor and work your way down. Open large unscreened faucets such as tubs before opening sink faucets.
- **Consider using bottled water for drinking immediately after a main break.** Main breaks can introduce bacteria and other pathogens that can cause illness. Chlorine in the water will act as a disinfectant but may become overwhelmed during a main break.

On average a water main break takes about 4 hours to repair. The crew must locate the break, wait for other utilities to respond and locate underground utilities in the area, repair the break, then flush and re-pressurize the water main. Consider keeping bottled water on hand in the event of a main break or other water emergency.