



January 16, 2025

Main Harbor System Water Service Update

Yesterday, around 9:30 am, a contractor working on behalf of a utility company struck an eight-inch PRV water pipe near Roses Bluff Boulevard and Yacht Club Road. The water line is located 4.5 feet underground and under a thick layer of brick pavers, several inches of sand, and concrete. The contractor miscalculated his bore and struck our pipe.

The PRV Tower Operators on Upper Spillway Road were alerted to low tank levels around 9:44am, and water crews were dispatched. Shortly thereafter, the City of Ridgeland opened a valve to their water system, which provided pressure to some PRV residents. The line break was so severe that the entire water tank drained before PRV water crews could take any mitigating measures, such as isolating the leak. The location of the pipe under bricks, sand, and concrete made repairs difficult.

PRV has strict requirements for boring contractors, including prior notification, field reviews, time restrictions, confirmed locates, and how far boring must be done from water lines. In this case, although the utility company requested a permit to replace the natural gas main in this area, PRV staff had not finished reviewing the request, and therefore no permit had been issued.

We expect accidents to sometimes happen, but our requirements are meant to prevent accidents or lessen their effects. In cases where contractors act without permission, the chances of accidents occurring increase, and contractors will be responsible for damages. Additionally, PRV staff will be proposing regulations in the near future which would stiffen penalties for unauthorized boring.

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