

Leak Detection Program



Leak Detection is a vital process in our Water Asset Management Program. With aging infrastructure and water resource depletion, leak detection has become one of the most cost-effective ways to save water and money.

Leak detection is performed in areas that have reported a leak, including water main breaks, high pressure areas, and for water mains that are 40 - 60 years old. These high-risk areas are assessed using a Correlator Sub Surface Leak Detector. Information collected from the detector is documented on a map and repair is done when warranted. Approximately one-third of the City's 500 miles of water lines (166 miles) is evaluated each year.



There are many different places that leaks may occur. Leaks may occur on private service lines, valves and City main lines. In most cases, the largest portion of unaccounted-for water loss is lost through leaks in City water mains.

There are many possible causes of a leak, and often a combination of factors leads to their occurrence. The material of pipe, composition of soil, age of pipe and joining methods of the water main distribution system components can influence leaks. Water conditions are also a factor, including temperature, aggressiveness, and pressure. External conditions, such as stray electric current; contact with other structures; and stress from traffic vibrations, frost loads, and freezing soil around a pipe can also contribute to leaks.