

Water-main rupture shuts down Beverly



A crew works to fix a 12-inch water-main break in the 1000 block of Beverly Street on Wednesday. Officials hoped to restore water service before Wednesday afternoon, but the road will be closed through today so the road can be fixed. (Kerry Huller/Star-Tribune)

By PETE NICKEAS
Star-Tribune staff writer

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A pair of leaks along a water main left nearly 70 homes without water for most of the day Wednesday and shut down a busy stretch of Beverly Street.

The first break was reported late Tuesday night in the 1000 block of Beverly street. City workers were called out at about 11 p.m., according to Jolene Martinez, an administrative analyst with the city. They worked until about 1 a.m. Wednesday morning and returned at about 5 a.m.

Workers were replacing a 10-foot section of 12-inch cast-iron pipe at about 2 p.m. Wednesday afternoon when another section of the main broke at Eighth and Beverly streets.

City officials expect Beverly to be closed between Fourth and 12th streets until late today while contractors work to repair the streets where mains are being replaced.

Martinez added Beverly would be closed down through today, so Ramshorn Construction can replace a section of the road instead of city workers putting down asphalt that would have to be fixed later this week.

"You have to realize it's nothing but slop down there, and it will not provide a good base for the road," Public Utilities Manager David Hill said. "We've got to make sure it's stabilized. We always back fill it and compact it with sand to bring it up to the surface."

Workers had to dig a hole about 10 feet wide and about 12 feet long in the middle of the 1000 block of Beverly street, about eight feet deep. They planned on placing a 25-inch clamp over the 21-inch crack in the pipe, but instead will be cutting out the old pipe and replacing it with a new section.

Hill said pipe replacements are fairly common in Casper because of the area's corrosive soil.

"A lot of our older pipe -- I'd say anything before about 1982 -- was almost strictly ductile-iron or cast-iron pipe, and

that's where these problems arise. They don't arise on new sections of the city that have been built or replaced with PVC plastic pipe," Hill said.

Sherry Weese, who lives on the 1000 block of Beverly, said she and her neighbors were outside when the street started cracking at about 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday. She doesn't have water but said she had a little time to fill up buckets and jugs, so she'd have water throughout the day.

Though the city doesn't give out bottled water, Martinez said in extreme situations workers can "hose-in" water to residents by drawing from another water main.

Martinez said city workers also found a hole in a six-inch water-main Wednesday morning near Nebraska and 10th streets, but crews fixed it and put a temporary patch on the road. Residents in that neighborhood have working water, she said.

Reach city reporter Pete Nickeas at (307) 266-0639. You can read his blog at <http://tribtown.trib.com/redtape>.

Video: Beverly water main erupts

By Dan Craig