



Rosamond Community Services District

Official Newsletter of Rosamond Community Services District - July 2024



The Low Down on Leaks

When it comes to water, every drop counts and every drop costs. That's why RCS D takes water leaks so seriously. Every leak repaired and every gallon of water saved from being wasted helps keep your water costs as low as possible. This month we'll take a look at some of the most common causes of water line leaks and what can be done to prevent them.

Reporting and Repairing Leaks

Maintaining the RCS D water conveyance system is a lot of work. Between June 17th and July 2nd, 2024, the RCS D public works crew repaired 33 leaks- that's about two leaks every day! We appreciate all of our vigilant customers who report leaks they see around town. After all, we can't repair a leak until we know about it.

It's easy to report any leaks you might come across by using the 'Report a Leak' page on our website. Just click over to rosamondcsd.com/leaks and fill out the simple form.

Minor leaks may not be repaired until the next regular working day. This is because sometimes it is less expensive to wait the day or two until the next regular work day

instead of paying labor premiums for after-hours, holiday, or weekend work. This cost-effective approach helps keep our expenses, and our rates, as low as possible.

Major leaks should be called in to RCS D immediately at (661) 256-3411. Please use our 24 hour emergency line, (661) 816-5345, to report major leaks if our office is closed.

What Causes Leaks?

Where do all of these leaks come from? According to John Houghton, our Director of Public Works, there are three main culprits: trees, rocks, and poor bedding. Leaks can be caused by many other things as well, including degrading materials and people accidentally hitting lines while digging, but these are the big three.

Trees

We love trees, with their beautiful green leaves and the shade they provide! But trees get thirsty, especially during the warm summer months when they grow. Trees seek out sources of water by sending out their roots underground. These roots often end up wrapped around water lines, causing them to bend and break. Once the line is broken open, the roots will often grow inside the line causing blockages. It is incredible just how far these roots can travel in search of water, including under sidewalks, driveways, and even across entire streets.

The easiest way to prevent leaks from tree roots is to not plant trees near water lines. Other options include trimming tree roots and installing root barriers.

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Rocks

Rocks in the soil may seem harmless, albeit occasionally annoying. But they can be a major cause of leaks to water and sewer lines that are in contact with them. Every time water flows through a pipe, it vibrates. You can feel this by wrapping your hand around lines under your sink and having someone turn the water on. This vibration is usually harmless, but when it happens in a pipe laying against a hard, unmoving rock, the pipe rubs against the rock and causes wear. This wear builds and builds until a leak is formed.

The best way to prevent this type of leak is to remove rocks from around water and sewer lines when you install them. Like the old saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Poor Bedding

Water and sewer lines are straight and like to be installed that way. It's important to create a solid, level bed that the lines can rest on when installing them. If the bed is not compacted enough, it can settle unevenly. Water and sewer lines that are on uneven beds tend to bend and break over time.

These kinds of leaks are prevented by proper installation techniques, ensuring that the bed beneath the line is level, compacted down, and solid.

Sinkholes

Sometimes leaks will erode away soil and create a sinkhole. It's important to remember that just patching the sinkhole is not enough. If the leak that caused the sinkhole is not fixed, the sinkhole will likely return. Unfortunately, finding the leak causing the sinkhole can be challenging and may take a few attempts.

Looking Ahead

As you can see, managing leaks is a big job. The good news is that the RCSD team is up to the task. We are even working on innovative ideas to prevent leaks before they happen. The RCSD team recently identified some water leak hotspots— areas where water leaks are a chronic problem. Our team has bids out to replace the lines in one of the hotspots. It's estimated that this proactive approach will save RCSD and our customers over \$1,000,000 after accounting for the cost of the replacement.

Keeping Credit Card Info Current

Keeping your payment card information up to date is vital to keeping your account in good standing. We know there can be a lot on your mind when your credit card expires or you get a replacement card because your card was lost or stolen, but if you use auto-pay for your RCSD payments, updating your account with new card information should be near the top of your to-do list.

Help Your Hose

Your hose can be a big source of water waste, especially during summer. The good news is that it's also one of the easiest to fix. Start by making sure you only use your hose with a nozzle that automatically turns off when you're not using it, like a spray gun. This helps ensure that the water only flows when and where you want it to go. You can also usually fix leaky connections on your hose by replacing the rubber washers inside them. These rubber washers are widely available at hardware stores and inexpensive.

