



FEBRUARY

# Current Events

February 2022

## Earthquakes and Water Infrastructure

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### Office closures for February

WaterPro's office will be closed on the following dates and times in February:

- All day Monday, February 21 in observance of President's Day.
- From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, February 24 for a company meeting.

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Residents of the Wasatch Front have often been warned that we are long overdue for the "big one," a major earthquake that could cause considerable damage throughout the region. But how might a big earthquake affect our supply of drinking water?

According to reporting in the Deseret News on January 12 ([Aging aqueducts and earthquakes: Why millions in Utah could end up without water](#)), four key aqueducts along the Wasatch Front that supply more than two million people with water are at risk if a major earthquake strikes the area.

According to the article, millions in Utah could be without water for as long as six months as repairs are made to these critical supply lines.

Other areas of the West, particularly California, also have water infrastructure that is vulnerable to earthquakes.

In Utah, Envision Utah has been working with the Utah Seismic Safety Commission to create priorities for repairing and upgrading critical water infrastructure to better withstand a potential earthquake.

At least some of the vulnerable aqueducts provide a key part of the water supply for Draper residents.

### What can we do about this?

There is no such thing as an "earthquake-proof" system. However, much of WaterPro's infrastructure is relatively new, and was built when seismic science was more advanced. For example, our newest water tanks are some of the most seismically sound tanks in the industry.

For the short term, we urge our customers to store enough water for a few days in case of an interruption to the supply. For a more long-term solution, please support water system upgrades to protect our region, our economy, and our way of life.

## Make Sure Your Stop & Waste is Turned Off!

All Pressure Irrigation (PI) customers should double-check that their stop & waste valve is turned off in preparation for PI season in the spring. If the valve is not turned off, your yard and/or house could flood when we start pressuring up the system in early April.

If you are unsure about how to turn off the stop & waste, please consult a landscaping professional. WaterPro is not responsible for any damage due to stop & waste valves that are left open.



## Construction Update: 1300 E

Beginning in March, WaterPro will replace the water line under the street on 1300 East from 13400 to 13800 South. The current line was installed in 1950 and needs to be replaced and upsized. We anticipate this project will take about four to six weeks.

We have scheduled this project in cooperation with Draper City, which is widening the road at the same time we replace our water main. By working on both projects simultaneously, the city and WaterPro can avoid tearing up the street twice and help minimize the disruption to residents. We appreciate Draper City's cooperation in planning and executing this necessary project.

## Plan to Attend our Annual Meeting

Remember, our annual shareholders' meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Room at Draper City Hall, 1020 East Pioneer Road.

If you cannot attend, please return your ballot to our office before March 16.

## Check Out Your PRV

A pressure reducing valve (PRV) regulates the pressure coming in from the water main, which can fluctuate from 50 to more than 150 PSI, depending on the area. The PRV helps protect dishwashers, clothes washers, and other appliances from the strain of high-pressure water. Building codes require PRVs, although older homes may lack them.

PRVs have moving parts; they eventually wear out and need to be replaced. If a PRV fails

suddenly, it can rupture supply lines and cause flooding.

Signs that your PRV is failing could include "water hammer" (banging or thumping noises when your dishwasher or washing machine turns on or off) or a leaking Temperature and Pressure (T&P) valve on the side of your water heater.

If you suspect your PRV is failing, call a licensed plumber to diagnose and fix the problem.

## Virtual Open House on Water Reuse Feb. 8th

To learn more about environmental and other issues regarding using treated reuse water in WaterPro's irrigation system, plan to attend the meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m. Use this link to register: <https://tinyurl.com/jbwrf-secondary-zoom>.

## New Building Completed at Water Treatment Plant

We have completed a much-needed addition to our water treatment campus on Wasatch at approximately 2600 East. The main existing building was completed in 1971, when we had one employee at the plant. When we upgraded our water treatment process in 2004, we expanded full-time staff at the treatment plant to three employees, and for many years we have needed more space for offices, meetings, a break room, and equipment storage.

