



**SPRINGFIELD WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 995, SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101**

Date of Issuance: January 6, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Service Pipe Break at Bridge and Main Street.

On Saturday morning, January 4, 2014, the Springfield Water and Sewer Commission received a report of flooding in the Tower Square area of Bridge Street. It was discovered that a six-inch water service pipe was leaking beneath Bridge Street. The water pressure from the break eroded the soil under Bridge Street, causing a part of the road to cave in.

The affected service line provides water to Tower Square. On Saturday, water and sewer commission crews shut off the water, stabilized the area, and tied over the water service so Tower Square would have water over the weekend.

Crews began repairs today, January 6, 2014, and are currently on site. Other utilities such as telephone and electric are assessing whether their lines have been affected. Water repairs are expected to be complete by the end of the day tomorrow. Bridge Street will remain closed while repairs are ongoing. The street should reopen by the end of next week.

Water main breaks may occur because of many contributing factors including: shifting soils and erosion of soils supporting the pipe, fluctuating temperatures causing metal expansions and contractions, pipe corrosion or rusting of the pipe, age of the pipe, excavations that disturb the area around the pipe, and/or vibrations from heavy traffic. In 2013 the Commission responded to 47 water main breaks; 32 of those main breaks occurred in the colder months of January, February, November and December.

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