



Another asbestos-cement water main fails

One basement was flooded and several homes were left without water service after a water main fractured in the District of North Vancouver's Cleveland Park neighbourhood Tuesday night.

By **North Shore News September 4, 2009**

One basement was flooded and several homes were left without water service after a water main fractured in the District of North Vancouver's Cleveland Park neighbourhood Tuesday night.

Work crews were sent to the 800-block of Canyon Boulevard shortly after 8 p.m., according to district spokeswoman Jeanine Bratina.

"They quickly isolated the break and began repairing it," she said. The broken section was cut out and replaced with a ductile iron pipe. Water service was restored by 4 a.m. Wednesday.

The broken six-inch-diameter pipe was one of the aged asbestos-cement lines that have been failing periodically around the district for many years. The 50-year-old pipe on Canyon Boulevard was scheduled to be replaced within the next year.

Of the 14 fractures so far this year, Bratina said eight have been on asbestos-cement pipes. On average, the district responds to 24 ruptured mains each year.

The district has roughly 360 kilometres of water mains, of which slightly less than a quarter, 87 kilometres, are asbestos-cement. The municipality spends approximately \$3 million annually to replace aging and previously broken pipes, at a rate of about five kilometres each year.

It will likely take 18 years to remove all of the district's asbestos-cement water mains, said Bratina.

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