

## Article

# Sinkhole forms after watermain breaks in North Vancouver

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### NORTH VANCOUVER

An aging water main burst on Lynn Valley Road in North Vancouver on July 5, creating a sinkhole which flooded some local basements and disrupted vehicle traffic in a residential area.

The intersection of Lynn Valley and Hoskins Road was closed and North Vancouver District construction crews started work the next morning to repair the water main and replace a section of the asphalt road.

The break washed out part of the roadbed and created a hole that was partially filled with water and was about three metres in diameter and more than two metres deep.

Fire and municipal crews turned off the main but water and debris had reached eight houses.

Water backed up into the basements and crawl-spaces of a number of homes and flooded lawns near the broken water main.

Firefighters helped pump out and clean up the local residences. The sinkhole caused a long crack to form on the road.

The ruptured main was manufactured from asbestos and cement, which are known to fail with age. Asbestos and cement pipes account for about three-quarters of the 20 failures that occur in the district every year. They also make up about a quarter of the district's 360-kilometre water network.

The district has a plan to replace aging pipes in phases over time, by switching out a total of three to five kilometres of conduit each year, at a cost of roughly \$3 million.

Under the current plan, all of the asbestos and concrete pipe should be replaced by 2027.

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