

From: **"Mochrie, Paul"**

To: **"Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"**

Date: 2024-06-20 2:23:39 PM

Subject: RE: Update - Metro Vancouver sewer force main break

Mayor & Council,

Further to my earlier updates surrounding this matter, I wanted you to be aware that Metro Vancouver and the Dragon Boat Festival organizer have arranged for a media availability at 2:45 pm today at the Dragon Boat Festival offices, confirming that the event may proceed as scheduled.

Please keep that confirmation embargoed until it is announced later today.

VCH has confirmed the following key messages that have been shared with media:

- Members of the public should not go in or near raw sewage.
- Questions about the break and remediation should be directed to Metro Vancouver.
- A VCH Environmental Health Officer is onsite to assess potential health impacts, and the affected area has been cordoned off, including Habitat Island.
- No Public Health-inspected facilities such as restaurants have been found to be contaminated.
- Primary contact recreational water activities (e.g. swimming) are not recommended in False Creek at any time. Secondary contact activities (e.g. boating) can proceed. In short, a high degree of contamination is always assumed in False Creek.
- Follow-up sampling and tests are being performed for the water at various sites in the False Creek area near the spill by Metro Vancouver.
- If the spill is cleaned up and there is no further contamination, the event may be able to proceed.

If you have any further questions, please contact Lon or me.

Best,
Paul

From: Mochrie, Paul

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 11:56 AM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL

Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL <CMCG@vancouver.ca>; LaClaire, Lon <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>; Zammar, Jimmy <Jimmy.Zammar@vancouver.ca>

Subject: RE: Update - Metro Vancouver sewer force main break

Mayor and Council,

Please see the following update summarizing the impacts and current status of the Metro main break in Olympic Village:

- Impacted street right-of-way area: The area affected was contained on Columbia between W1st and W 2nd Ave and approximately 100 metres of the lane between W1st and W2nd. There is minimal impact to traffic due to the road being closed. Pedestrians were routed around the affected area.
- Impacted properties: We had reports of sewage impacting properties 162 W 1st as well as 159/165 W2nd. Our crews are assisting by clearing the spill away from doorways of affected buildings and evaluating the impact to our infrastructure.
- Impacts to Hinge Park: Some sewage was evident in the pond at Hinge park. We have ribboned off access points to keep people and pets away from the water.
- Status of the break/flow: The flow from the broken 900mm Metro Vancouver (MV) force main seem to have stopped for now, and the flow redirected (likely through other portions of the MV and City system). We are monitoring our pump stations for any cascading issues or concerns.
- Impacts to False Creek and the Dragon Boat Festival: Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) are on site, and water quality sampling is underway. Once the results are available, VCH and MV will confirm the level of risk to users in False Creek, and will inform the Dragon Boat Festival organizers of risks to the event, if any. Staff have contacted the Dragon Boat Festival organizers to keep them up to date, and we will continue to liaise with them and with MV and VCH.

Best,
Paul

From: Mochrie, Paul

Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:48 AM

To: Direct to Mayor and Council - DL

Cc: City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL <CMCG@vancouver.ca>; LaClaire, Lon <lon.laclaire@vancouver.ca>; Zammar, Jimmy <Jimmy.Zammar@vancouver.ca>

Subject: Update - Metro Vancouver sewer force main break

Importance: High

Mayor and Council,

I am writing to provide you with an update about the Metro Vancouver force main break (i.e. pressurized sewer main) that took place this morning in Olympic Village.

At about 5:30am today the City was alerted to a suspected main break on Columbia Street, just north of second Avenue. Crews were immediately deployed to investigate. The City's crews determined that it was not City of Vancouver infrastructure failure, and the City immediately advised Metro Vancouver of the issue.

Metro Vancouver crews are onsite investigating, with VPD supporting road closures in the area due to health and environmental concerns. The City's crews remain on standby to support Metro Vancouver crews as needed. Vancouver Coastal Health has also been informed.

The overflowing sewage from the asset failure has caused ponding around the area, and the flow is going into the City's drainage catchbasins. From there, the flow is being channeled into False Creek. Metro Vancouver will follow mandatory regulatory reporting requirements to the Ministry of Environment in relation to this sewage spill.

There has been significant media interest in this issue. Staff have provided information to media outlets and have redirected them to Metro Vancouver for more information.

Please let me or Lon know if you have any questions,

Thanks,
Paul

Paul Mochrie (he/him)
City Manager
City of Vancouver



The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.