



the Metro Update

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Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy

3430 East Danish Road

Cottonwood Heights, UT 84093

www.mwdsls.org/rightofway.html

If you have questions or notice suspicious activity within the corridor, contact us:

During Business Hours: 801-942-1391 ext. 4

(24-hour) Emergency Phone Line: 801-942-9656

Email: rightsofway@mwdsls.org

The Metro Update is a publication of the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy. The newsletter provides updates on District activities, shares upcoming projects, and offers helpful tips to the communities around District facilities.

If you have questions regarding District facilities or activities, please contact District staff at 801-942-1391, ext. 4.

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Roots: Underground Hazard



These roots were discovered coming into the Salt Lake Aqueduct through a compromised joint.

Tree roots are experts at locating water. When that water is from a leaking pipe the result can be disastrous. Roots create flow restrictions and can damage the pipeline itself.

Pipelines are a series of segments, fittings, valves, turnouts and other “soft” connections. Over time the gaskets, bolts, and earth holding these connections can shift or fail, causing pipe leaks and failures.

Often a leak provides enough water for a root system to seek and find the source. The District has found tree roots in its Salt Lake Aqueduct during internal inspections. Weekly above-ground inspections are also performed. When roots are found in the aqueduct, the District cleans and repairs the joint from both inside and outside. Often the corresponding trees are located and removed.

The District proactively removes trees growing within 20 feet of the pipeline to thwart future problems. This is one reason why new trees are prohibited within the right-of-way.



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Earthquake Preparedness

The Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy delivers more than 150 million gallons of water each day during the summer. This is accomplished through more than 50 miles of pipelines that measure from 5-feet to 8-feet in diameter. More than 500,000 people in the Salt Lake Valley depend on water delivered by the District for drinking, washing and watering.

Many of these pipelines are in close proximity to geological faults. Experts throughout the State of Utah warn that geological evidence exists that indicates that large earthquakes are likely in Utah's near future. The District takes earthquake preparedness seriously.

Use of the ground above District pipes is limited to ensure timely access for repair and replacement. Additionally, those who live near the District's pipelines could experience flooding during a significant earthquake. District employees are trained to respond to emergency situations, and staff is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The District has purchased and strategically placed replacement pipe sections to minimize service interruptions. Even so, depending on the magnitude of the earthquake, amount of pipe damage and availability of access, customers could be out of service for weeks at a time.

What does that mean to you? Individuals and families should also actively prepare for an earthquake. Each family should maintain emergency supplies (including water!), have a family emergency plan, and know how to safely react during an earthquake. Check out the internet resources to the right to begin to create your emergency response plan.



Earthquakes present high risk to pipelines and can interrupt service for weeks.

www.ready.gov/earthquakes

www.bereadyutah.gov

Planning for Summer Projects

Many property owners are already planning outdoor projects for 2017. Each spring the District sees an increase in projects and applications along the District's right-of-way, many of which could be delayed while the project awaits District approval.

To ensure that your project is processed in a timely manner, please review the District's Policies and Procedures Chapter 16, then complete and send an application. Both documents are available at



www.mwdsls.org under the **District Rights of Way** link.

Please feel free to contact our staff at 801-942-1391 ext. 4 with application questions or to discuss your project.

Be Involved

The District is committed to providing a viable water resource for the Salt Lake Valley now and in the future. We are taking reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and welfare of all the citizens we serve.

To provide input, have your questions addressed, and feel more involved in the policymaking process, we encourage you to attend our public Board Meetings. Visit www.mwdsls.org for a calendar of upcoming meetings.

You can also sign up with the Utah Public Notice Website at pmn.utah.gov to receive notification of upcoming meetings directly to your email. You'll find the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy under the Special Districts category.