



Town of Taos
PRESS RELEASE
400 Camino de la Placita, Taos, NM 87571
(575) 751-2002

For Immediate Release:

September 18, 2014 - A large 10" water transmission line running through the downtown from Cruz Alta to the Kachina Lodge has been broken by the collapse of a storm sewer. As a result, large areas of the downtown and northside of Taos may be experiencing very low pressure or may be without water. The size of the affected area has not been determined but the cause has been identified and service crews are on the scene and working to repair the damage as well as attempting to minimize the impact.

As this is a large repair that will mean shutting off water in order to cut out and replace the damaged sections, we are asking residents to only use water if absolutely necessary in order to preserve the pressure and water in the system until repairs are completed.

We fully anticipate full service being restored by morning but complete repair will take most of the night and will likely not be restored before midnight.

Cruz Alta remains closed between Witt Road and Camino de Santiago and traffic may experience delays on Paseo de Pueblo Norte at the Kachina Lodge due to road openings at that location through the evening.

There is no immediate public safety risk posed by the breakage and the actual loss of water is believed at this time to be minimal.

Please check the Town website at taosgov.com for additional details and you can email or call the Town Manager, Rick Bellis at rbellis@taosgov.com or (575) 770-2606 if you have a situation that needs immediate attention.

If you have a life threatening emergency such as medical, fire or other health and safety needs, please contact Emergency Dispatch as you normally would by dialing 911.

We appreciate your patience during this situation and are doing all we can to resolve the matter as quickly as possible.

-End-

TOWN OF TAOS GOVERNING BODY

Mayor Daniel R. Barrone
Mayor Pro Tem Frederick A. Peralta
Councilmember Andrew T. Gonzales
Councilmember George "Fritz" Hahn
Councilmember Judith Y. Cantu

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Town Hall Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Visit us on our website: www.taosgov.com



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WATER TROUBLES CONTINUE

A fracture in an elbow on the main water delivery system for the Town of Taos under Paseo del Pueblo Sur (approximately at McDonalds) continues to disrupt water pressure throughout the Town of Taos leading to low pressure on the north side of Town and low or no pressure in the south side of Town, depending on how close you are to Paseo del Pueblo.

We are working on the problem but have no timeframe for completion given that fixes to the by-pass have not held and that its removal requires shutting off service again to the main line.

Water was restored to much of the system about midnight but without full pressure water flow did not hold and staff have been tracing the lines throughout the Town looking for additional fractures due to the pressure spike that occurred yesterday. Primary consideration was given to assuring that service to the Holy Cross Hospital and other critical services was not disrupted throughout the event.

Buses for students for the Taos School District have been collecting students this morning but the Town and School District have a plan on stand-by to return students home if we cannot restore service by 9 AM this morning, which is unlikely.

Business and government offices are advised to consider closing or having a "delayed start" till at least noon today to see how repairs develop.

Low pressure toilets will likely not function at all even where some service is restored until full pressure is available.

We will keep everyone informed by email, FaceBook, radio, and the Town Web site as we know more.

Rick Bellis
Town Manager

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