

# Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CITY OF TUMWATER PLANS FLUSHING PROGRAM**

TUMWATER, WA, FEBRUARY 13, 2009: The City of Tumwater will be flushing water mains in the vicinity of Tumwater Hill next week beginning on the morning of February 17<sup>th</sup> continuing through the close of business on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>. Water main flushing is a common practice which helps maintain the integrity of the City's distribution mains and delivery of high quality water to utility customers.

During the Uni-Directional Flushing (UDF) program, Tumwater Operations crews will be opening and closing valves and hydrants in sequence to create a high velocity flow which will scour and clean the inside of the water mains by dislodging and removing the normal accumulation of mineral deposits.

The process uses a fair amount of water, but is necessary to properly flush the system and maintain a high standard of water quality. While it will appear to be a lot of water, UDF uses up to 40% less water than convention flushing techniques. UDF programs have also been demonstrated to help reduce normal

bacteriological growth within water mains and improve disinfection and the aesthetic quality of the water. Another benefit of UDF is that almost all of the water system valves and hydrants will be tested, helping staff identify any system improvements that may be needed in the pilot area.

While not expected, there may be a slight drop in pressure or a discoloration of the water from the minerals and sediments that are being flushed out of the system. This temporary condition is common during flushing activities and is not harmful. The City does not expect service disruptions; any disruption should be corrected quickly.

Residents within the flushing area have been notified by mail and crews will have signs placed throughout the area as a reminder. We also urge all residents to use caution while travelling near City crews and flushing activities.

For questions or concerns regarding the UDF program, please contact Steve Craig, Operations Manager at (360) 754-4150.

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