



Do you know Your Water?

WATER TALKS

a project of California Trout

Detecting and Repairing Leaks

Topics of Discussion

- So I have a leak – what’s the big deal?
- Detecting Leaks
- Repairing Leaks
- When is it the City’s responsibility?

Impacts of Leaks

- Common Water Loss Examples
 - Leaking toilet = 21,600 gal/month
 - Drip Irrigation at 1 GPM = 43,200 gal/month
 - Unattended Water Hose (charged hose) = 5,400 GPD
 - Broken Service Line 1 night = 8,100 gallons
 - Stuck Ice Maker = 86,400 gal/month
 - 1/16" pinhole = 114,200 gal/month
 - ½" hole (complete failure) = 1,827,000 gal/month

Source: Simply Leak Detection

Detecting Leaks

- What does a leak look like?
 - Subtle wet spots
 - Puddling
 - Discoloration



Detecting Leaks

- What does a leak sound like?
 - Hissing
 - Whooshing
 - Rumbling

Detecting Leaks

- I don't hear or see anything, can I still have a leak?
 - Toilet Leaks
 - Irrigation Leaks

Repairing Leaks

- Pipe types
 - Copper, Pex
 - Steel, Brass, PVC
- Fitting types
 - Thread
 - Solvent
 - Solder
 - Compression/Shark Bite

Repairing Leaks

- When is it time to call the plumber?



Repairing Leaks

- Repair scenarios
 - Leaking valve/fitting or complete pipe failure
 - Pinhole leak



Detecting leaks

- Prevention when installing pipe
 - Wrap the pipe
 - Insulate your pipe
 - Install a pressure regulator
 - Allow yourself easy access



City Responsibility

- Main breaks



City Responsibility

- Turning off water
 - Everybody should have a separate house valve aside from the city shut off
 - Do not operate the city curb stop
 - Old, fragile infrastructure
 - You break it you buy it

City Responsibility

- Unaddressed leaks
 - Distribution system is first and foremost for fire protection
 - If we see a leak go unattended, especially after making contact, we will shut the water off
 - When leaks happen in distribution system during busy times it may take us some time to get there (when it rains it pours)

Comments & Questions

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