

WHAT'S ON TAP



NEWS FOR DC WATER CUSTOMERS • VOLUME 19 ISSUE 6



Hurricane season, and severe rain, are here

In our region, the Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is forecasting the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season will be near-normal or above-normal. An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes.

District area residents and business owners are urged to protect themselves, their loved ones and their property. DC Water offers precautions to take when the weather service reports impending severe weather or hurricane.

Please do the following before severe weather arrives:

- Visit ready.gov/hurricanes.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Install backwater valves to help prevent sewer back-ups.
- Keep a battery-powered radio nearby.
- Maintain an emergency supply of food and bottled water for your family and pets. Visit dcwater.com/prepare-hurricane to find out how much water you may need.
- Visit dcwater.com/responding-water-emergency and print out how to prepare for and respond to water emergencies.
- If damage is extensive, listen to the media for information about water and sewer infrastructure and the safety of your drinking water.
- Call DC Water's 24-hour Command Center for all water and sewer emergencies at 202-612-3400.
- Keep a first-aid kit handy, including flashlights and extra batteries.
- Sign up for alerts:
 - DC Water's alert system to be notified of outages and repairs: dcwater.com/signup
 - DC Water news/releases: dcwater.com/signup
 - AlertDC: hsema.dc.gov/page/alertDC

Please see our blogpost at dcwater.com/hurricane for more in-depth information.

General Manager's Message

First, let me say that I am delighted to be in Washington, DC, heading up your water and sewer authority. I come from Indianapolis, where my family has been in the water sector for generations. We take pride in bringing critical water and sewer services to families and businesses like yours.



Second, I am very much aware of the steady increases in DC Water's rates and charges, particularly the Clean Rivers Impervious Area Charge, and the impact on our customers. I know that there are many households for whom this places a significant burden.

I will make it a priority to work with DC Water's Board and staff, and other stakeholders, to identify cost-saving opportunities and improve efficiency. As a start, we seek to identify \$20 million in savings and \$20 million in revenue outside of ratepayer income.

Water utilities across the country are faced with the competing demands of keeping rates affordable and replacing and repairing aging infrastructure. At the same time, we must meet ever more stringent environmental mandates.

We are ready for that challenge. I look forward to working with some of the most innovative minds in the industry here at DC Water. I also look forward to meeting customers in our community to hear your thoughts, ideas and concerns. Please feel free to contact me at the email address below.

David L. Gadis
CEO and General Manager
gmsuggestions@dcwater.com

What's in your water?



This month, DC Water will publish and distribute the 2017 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. The report highlights the testing and results of our drinking water during the year. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires public water suppliers to prepare and distribute the report describing the source and quality of the water they deliver to customers.

In short, our water met the strict health requirements established by the EPA.

DC Water ensured the safety of drinking water and tested for a broad range of parameters. Last year, DC Water scientists performed over 40,000 tests and collected more than 6,500 samples to confirm the excellent quality of the drinking water supply both at the treatment plants and throughout the service area.

Visit dcwater.com/WQreport, to see the full report. Alternatively, call Customer Service or contact externalaffairs@dcwater.com to request a copy by mail.

DC Water remains strongly committed to protecting you and your family from lead. The 2017 report contains actions DC Water takes to test water for lead and eliminate your lead service pipes. Additionally, the report outlines steps to minimize the risk of lead exposure, and tools like the Service Line Map and bilingual brochures to identify sources of lead. Visit dcwater.com/lead for more information.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those undergoing chemotherapy, previous organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk for infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.



DC Water's skimmer boats make cleaner, healthier rivers

DC Water's two new skimmer boats remove more than 400 tons of floating debris from the Anacostia and Potomac rivers a year. The skimmer boats, named Flotsam and Jetsam, have full-time crews that pick-up debris from over 15 miles of shoreline. Over the first week in June alone, the boats removed 80 tons during the intense rain events.

The trash usually starts out as litter on streets and sidewalks, and gets picked up by runoff during heavy rainstorms. It travels through storm drains either through the combined sewer system or the separate storm sewer system (administered by DOEE) and ends up in our waterways.

The skimming crew periodically coordinates with local marinas to remove debris in and around them. The healthier waterways are spawning more activity, as we now have more marinas and outlets for water recreation. Not only are we making our rivers cleaner and safer for people to enjoy, but also for their natural inhabitants—fish, waterfowl, amphibians, and aquatic plants.

Please do your part by keeping litter and pet waste off our streets and out of the storm drains.

Anacostia River Tunnel beats expectations

The lower portion of the Anacostia River Tunnel began storing combined sewage on March 20, 2018 and was immediately put to the test by heavy rains. This part of the tunnel was designed to provide an approximately 80 percent reduction in combined sewer overflows (CSO's) for an **average year** rainfall conditions. In 11 short weeks with several intense rain events, the tunnel captured about 1.3 billion gallons of combined sewer overflows. The tunnel averaged 92 percent capture even though these were severe storms. So, the tunnel's performance in the first three months has been better than expected given the extreme rain.

This lower portion can hold and store up to approximately 100 million gallons of combined sewage. DC Water will begin mining the final segment of this tunnel system shortly and the entire 13.1-mile tunnel will be operational in 2023.



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