

Connections

July/August 2017



Providing Reliable Service Every Day – Part II

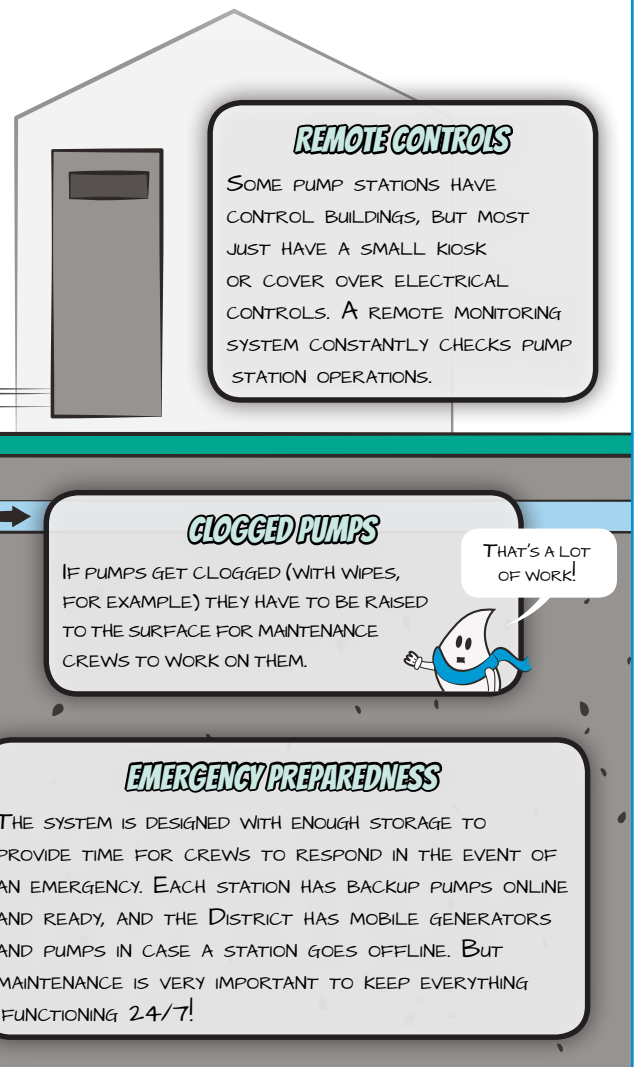
The District has more than 15 employees responsible for operating and maintaining the collection system every day, but many customers don't know how this work is critical to keeping the system flowing. This series explains how each specialized area ensures the sewer system continues to provide safe and reliable service to our community.

Under pressure: Pump stations and force mains

Most of the District's sewers are gravity-fed, meaning wastewater flows by gravity from one point to another. In many parts of the system, however, wastewater must be pushed up and over hills using pump stations. These stations discharge through pressure sewers, which are called force mains.

Pump stations involve electrical and mechanical equipment that requires constant monitoring and more frequent and complex maintenance than gravity sewers. Pump stations, in particular, are prone to clogging if non-flushable materials (such as wipes) get into the system. The infographic shows the basics of a pump station.

Did you know? The District's system includes more than 65 pump stations. While not every neighborhood has one on the corner, nearly all customers rely on at least one pump station to move their wastewater to the treatment plant.



GRAVITY IS GOOD

WASTEWATER FLOWS FROM THE GRAVITY SEWER PIPES INTO THE WET WELL. ULTRASONIC DEVICES MEASURE THE WATER LEVEL.

THE UPHILL BATTLE

THE SUBMERSIBLE PUMP SUCKS IN WASTEWATER, PRESSURIZES THE SYSTEM, AND PUSHES WASTEWATER THROUGH THE FORCE MAIN.

REMOTE CONTROLS

SOME PUMP STATIONS HAVE CONTROL BUILDINGS, BUT MOST JUST HAVE A SMALL KIOSK OR COVER OVER ELECTRICAL CONTROLS. A REMOTE MONITORING SYSTEM CONSTANTLY CHECKS PUMP STATION OPERATIONS.

GLOGGED PUMPS

IF PUMPS GET CLOGGED (WITH WIPES, FOR EXAMPLE) THEY HAVE TO BE RAISED TO THE SURFACE FOR MAINTENANCE CREWS TO WORK ON THEM.

THAT'S A LOT OF WORK!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

THE SYSTEM IS DESIGNED WITH ENOUGH STORAGE TO PROVIDE TIME FOR CREWS TO RESPOND IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. EACH STATION HAS BACKUP PUMPS ONLINE AND READY, AND THE DISTRICT HAS MOBILE GENERATORS AND PUMPS IN CASE A STATION GOES OFFLINE. BUT MAINTENANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KEEP EVERYTHING FUNCTIONING 24/7!

Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Weekends
& Holidays

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

Commissioners

Norm Harker
Denny Kiggins
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In the news

Check out the recent article that ran in *The Columbian* about how wet wipes affect our sewer systems!

www.tinyurl.com/crwwd-wipes



Summer's heating up!

Come see Frog, F.O.G.G. and their buddies, the sewer turtles, at an upcoming event! If you submit a question at our booth, you may see the answer appear in this newsletter!

Calendar of Events

**Jul.
4**

Ridgefield
Parade

**Aug.
1**

Ridgefield
National
Night Out

**Sep.
24**

Public Safety
Complex –
Safety Fair

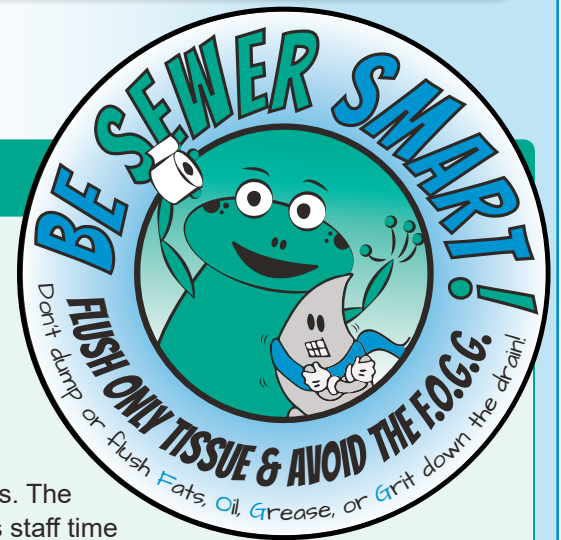
Reliability Tip: The Toilet is Not a Trash Can

Everything you put down the drain, including in the toilet, ends up in the sewer system. If those materials don't break down, they quickly tangle together and can create huge, expensive clogs. Some things that should NEVER be put down the drain include:

- **Dental floss** – These plastic strings never dissolve and knot together other garbage.
- **Hair** – This is a major tangle culprit. Place hair in the trash.
- **Latex and feminine products** – Materials like these do not disappear (or break down) when you put them down the toilet!
- **Wipes, Kleenex and paper towel** – Read the next newsletter for more on why wipes and other non-flushable materials are so bad for the system, as well as a fun experiment you can do at home!

It's costly to remove waste from the system and deal with blockages in sewers and clogged pumps. The District invests staff time in removing garbage and has purchased more expensive pumps that are less prone to clogging. These costs impact customers, because rates must include money for the extra equipment and maintenance.

In the end, all garbage removed from the system is sent to the landfill — so skip the expensive middle step and put it straight in the trash!



Frog and the F.O.G.G.

