

Connections

January/February 2018



Providing Reliable Service Every Day – Part V

This series explains all the work behind the scenes that keeps the sewer system operating safely and reliably every day.

Bring out the pigs! Cleaning underground pipes

As you might imagine, sewer pipes get dirty. This isn't necessarily a problem, but when residue and debris starts to build up on the inside of pipes, it slows flow and can even fully clog pipes. (It can also cause unpleasant smells!) The District monitors the system to identify these issues before they become a problem. Gradual decreases in flow or increases in pump run times indicate a pipe needs to be cleaned. But how do you clean underground pipes without having to dig them up?

"Pigs" are used to clean pipes. There are many kinds and sizes of pigs. For sewers, we usually use foam pigs that are able to compress, reducing the chance that they could get stuck.

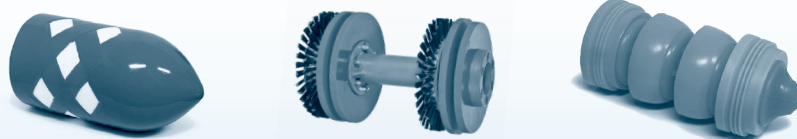


Photo credit: drinkwaterproducts.com

Pressure sewers are tricky to clean

Unlike gravity sewers that are linear and only turn corners at manhole locations, pressure sewers or "force mains" generally follow the lay of the land, travelling both horizontally and vertically with many twists and turns. Flushing them with high-pressure jets of water, which is the method used for gravity sewers, isn't possible for pressure sewers.

The District uses "ice pigging" in situations where digging up pipes for a stuck pig would not be possible, such as sensitive environmental areas like Salmon Creek. During ice pigging, slushy ice is pushed through the pipe, leaving it clean and simply melting away if it gets stuck.

The answer is pigging

"Pigging" means pushing something through a pipe to clear debris and remove build-up. The pig is just big enough to get close to the sides of the pipe but small enough to avoid getting stuck. If pigs do get stuck, crews have to be creative to get them out again. Rarely, a pipe may need to be dug up to get the pig out.



Want to see a video of how ice pigs clean pipes? Visit <http://bit.ly/2AEXFol>.

Or check out a District ice pig in action: www.crwwd.com/technology/index.php.

Hours of Operation

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

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

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Advocating for stable and low-cost funding for water and sewer infrastructure

In October 2017, District General Manager John Peterson joined a delegation from the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts to meet with U.S. Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler and other legislators. The delegation discussed the importance of the availability of low-cost loans to water and sewer utilities in Washington state. These loans help districts like Clark Regional keep rates low while ensuring high-quality infrastructure and service.

If you would like to know more about water and sewer districts in the state of Washington and the benefits they provide to customers, visit www.waswdmap.org.



From left to right: Jim Voetberg, Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District; Jim Kuntz, WASWD Executive Director; John Peterson, CRWWD; Congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler; Tal Weberg, Covington Water District Commissioner

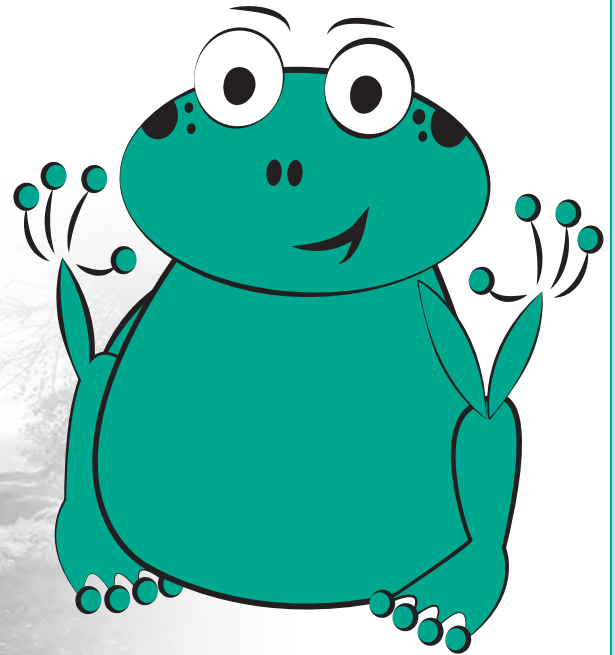
Ask Frog

Q: Do you ever see cockroaches in the sewer?

—Customer in Felida

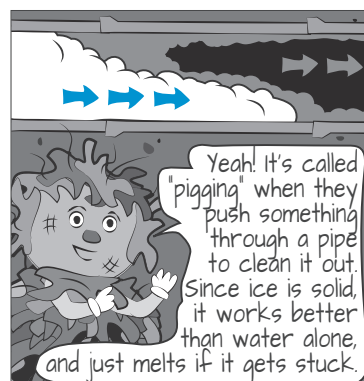
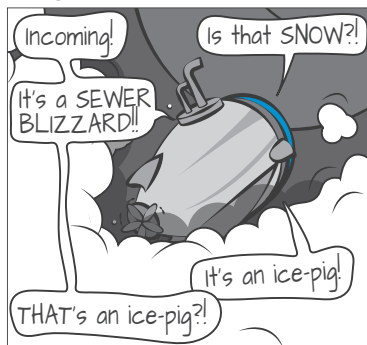
A: Thank you for the question! I joined the District in 2001 and have never seen a cockroach or any other type of animal in the District's sewer system (we do see spiders on occasion). With the help of a talented group of sewer professionals, we inspect and assess the condition of approximately 50 miles of sewer each year, using specialized video equipment. Other maintenance activities also give us daily opportunities to visually inspect the system. So, if there were any cockroaches in the District sewer, odds are that I would have seen one by now. What we do see most often is 'grease' build-up in the sewers, which usually comes from kitchen sinks and is the most common source of clogged pipes. So, please remember to 'Be Sewer Smart' and keep fats, oils, grease and grit out of the drain. Your sewer will thank you!

—Tony Bisson, Maintenance Supervisor



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Frog and the F.O.G.G.



12-7-2017