

# News Release

## Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

Issued by: Patricia Borne  
Public Information Officer



### Our Mission Is:

“Provide the services,  
leadership, and vision to  
improve the quality of life  
in Jefferson Parish.”

Aaron F. Broussard  
Parish President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 11, 2010

### **FRIGID TEMPERATURES CAUSED WATER PIPE LEAKS THROUGHOUT PARISH**

Jefferson Parish experienced 52 water main breaks this past weekend due to the effects of below freezing temperatures on several continuous days. Forty-seven of the 52 have been repaired. As the breaks occur, citizens may experience low or no water pressure.

The parish placed its water repair crews on duty this weekend as well as bringing in repair crews from private contractors. Most of our water lines are on a looped network so they should be able to maintain some water pressure.

Crews have worked around the clock to repair the breaks, and in most cases they will be repaired within 24 hours of a report of a break. Jefferson Parish Emergency Management has pre-placed two water tankers at fire stations in order to provide additional water sources to fight fires if necessary.

The Parish expects more breaks to become visible in the next 48 hours as the pipes begin to thaw. Citizens that notice water bubbling up from the streets and servitudes should contact the Water Department at the following numbers: **East Bank:** during working hours (504) 736-6060 and after hours call (504) 838-4363 and **West Bank:** working hours (504) 736-6060 and after hours call (504) 349-5081.

Jefferson Parish reminds all citizens that any broken water lines in your home or in your water line from the water meter to your house must be repaired by a plumber licensed to perform work in Jefferson Parish.

We encourage all citizens to practice water conservation for the next 48 hours by not utilizing the water system for non-essential activities.

Jefferson Parish is closely monitoring the water system and addressing the breaks on a priority basis. Breaks in larger lines or feeding critical facilities such as hospitals or schools will be given a higher priority than those on smaller lines.

### **THERE ARE NO BOIL WATER ORDERS AT THIS TIME**

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Citizens and businesses of Jefferson Parish are reminded to take the following precautions:

- Wrap and insulate all exposed pipes and valves.
- Ensure that all pets are placed in a warm, protected area.
- If possible, avoid driving on icy or snow-covered roads.
- Follow all manufacturer guidelines when using space heaters; specifically do not place any objects closer than three (3) feet in the front of the heater. *Space heaters that use kerosene, diesel, or other fossil fuels should only be used in large, well ventilated areas to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. The use of these types of heaters inside of homes should only be done in strict conformance with the manufacturer's recommendations and guidelines.*
- Please keep in mind that severe cold weather can have adverse effects on automobiles and their batteries. Some vehicles may be difficult to start in extremely cold weather.
- Homeowners should test the batteries in their smoke detectors and consider purchasing carbon monoxide detectors if they do not already have them.
- For further information please call the Department of Emergency Management at 349-5360.

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