



News Release

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Emergency Repair of HRSD Pipeline Continues Near Intersection of Laskin Road and Red Robin Road

—Residents advised to avoid contact with Linkhorn Bay—

Crews will be working around the clock to complete an emergency repair of a sanitary sewer force main near the intersection of Laskin Road and Red Robin Road in Virginia Beach. The right lane of east-bound Laskin Road has been closed at the repair site for the safety of motorists and workers.

HRSD staff responded promptly when a leak in the 30-inch concrete pipe was reported at approximately 11:30 p.m. on Saturday as heavy rains from Hurricane Matthew flooded portions of Virginia Beach. The pipe was underwater, making it impossible to assess the nature of the failure at that time or the amount of flow that was reaching the marsh that leads to Linkhorn Bay.

Once flood waters receded, HRSD staff, with the assistance of City of Virginia Beach staff, took steps to limit the release of wastewater by re-routing a portion of the flow to other pipelines. A pump and haul operation was also initiated to eliminate wastewater from the broken pipeline while maintaining service to all customers.

Crews found a hole on the top of pipe. The section to be repaired was exposed by Monday evening, allowing staff to perform a condition assessment and determine the most effective method of repair.

“We are grateful for the help provided by the City of Virginia Beach during this emergency,” said HRSD General Manager Ted Henifin. “This type of cooperation strengthens our region and benefits our residents as well as the environment.”

Because an undetermined amount of untreated wastewater, which was highly diluted with rainwater and tidal flows, reached Linkhorn Bay before the leak was stopped, residents are encouraged to avoid recreational contact with Linkhorn Bay at this time.

HRSD’s Virginia Initiative Plant in Norfolk was also challenged by Hurricane Matthew. The plant, which receives an average flow of 33 million gallons per day, was fully treating an estimated 90 million gallons per day on Saturday and Sunday. In addition, until shortly after midnight Monday, an undetermined volume of these highly diluted flows was diverted to the alternate outfall for disinfection only before discharge to the Elizabeth River. This action was taken to limit overflows from manholes in local neighborhoods.

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HRSD, a political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was created by public referendum in 1940 and currently serves 17 cities and counties in southeast Virginia, an area with a population of 1.7 million. Our Mission: We protect public health and the waters of Hampton Roads by treating wastewater effectively.