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KTLA

6th Water Main Ruptures in Los Angeles Area

KTLA News

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LOS ANGELES -- A sixth water main break in less than a week has hit Los Angeles, with the latest rupture in the Cathay Square area.

KTLA spotted the broken main at the intersection of Lindenhurst and La Jolla Avenues just before 5 a.m.

Water quickly filled the intersection.

Crews at the scene were pushed back due to the compromised stability of the ground.

DWP crews worked to turn off the water supply and assess the damge.

It was not immediately known what caused the rupture.

Hours earlier, another water main broke in the Vermont Knolls area of South Los Angeles.

The line ruptured in the 8800 block of Baring Cross near 88th Street just after 1 a.m.

Arriving firefighters blocked off the damaged pavement until Department of Water and Power crews arrived to begin the repairs.

The incidents were the latest in a series of burst pipes along the city's seemingly crumbling water- transporting network.

The worst damage occurred last Saturday when a 95-year-old pipe burst in Studio City unleashing a torrent of water through homes and businesses along a three-block section of Coldwater Canyon Avenue.

Parts of Coldwater Canyon Avenue were heavily damaged, forcing thousands of commuters to find alternate routes to get from the San Fernando Valley to the Westside.

Officials had hoped to have Coldwater Canyon back in operation by Friday but now say it won't reopen to traffic until Saturday afternoon at the earliest.

The 62-inch steel pipeline was installed in 1914 under then-City Engineer William Mulholland and had ruptured near the same spot in 1993.

On Tuesday, a 6-inch water line burst in Valley Village -- about two miles east of the site of Saturday's rupture -- creating a sinkhole that partially swallowed a Los Angeles Fire Department truck.

Four firefighters inside the truck escaped without injury. It took several hours to pull the 42,000-pound engine out of the muddy, water-filled hole.

Early the next morning, two 6-inch lines ruptured in the Fairfax District -- in the 100 block of North Hayworth Avenue and the 1400 block of Hi Point Street.

Los Angeles City Council members said they intend to monitor ongoing upgrades to the city's 7,000 miles of water pipelines, with Councilman

Paul Koretz, who represents Studio City and Valley Village, calling the ruptures "a wake-up call."

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