



Signs of Water Loss



Waterline breaks and leaks can be a significant source of water loss for public water systems. Quickly locating and repairing leaks reduces a system's overall water loss and energy consumption.

What to Look For



Inconsistent meter readings

Compare source water meter readings to service connection meter readings (gallons pumped vs. gallons sold).



Unusual pumping demands

Recognize significant increases in pumping demands outside of normal seasonal fluctuations.



Changes in water quality

Look for bacteria in distribution line samples or a noticeable change in delivered water quality.



Water seeps

Look for surfacing water with chlorine or an unusual appearance.



Pressure variances

Check for low pressure in the distribution system.



Sonic Patterns

Measure sound waves and noise patterns with sonic leak detection equipment.

Preventing Water Loss

Exercise valves and hydrants

Regular exercise of valves and hydrants ensures their operability and reduces the risk for breakage and resulting water loss. Properly operating valves can also hasten leak repair.

Record master meter reading daily

By conducting daily master meter readings, seasonal fluctuations and unusual spikes in water demand can be observed. If water demand is out of the ordinary, take action to determine if water loss is occurring.

Change out meters

Traditional service connection meters and master meters lose accuracy over time. It is important to replace meters at the end of their useful life to ensure accurate readings. Many utilities replace 10 percent of their meters per year to maintain effective water-use tracking and related collection of revenue.

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