

Summer Safety

Each summer as we enter construction season, Public Works (PW) crew members take the time to refocus on safety and the hazards that the summer weather and activities pose to our staff. We begin with a refresher on our Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliant requirements for working in extreme heat conditions.

As temperatures rise into the 80's, PW Supervisors are required to modify workloads and allow more frequent breaks during the first week of work so that employees become acclimatized to higher temperatures, especially those who are new to working in the heat or have been away from that work for a week or more. Additionally, field crews are provided with access to water and electrolyte replenishing drinks. In addition to their normal breaks, staff are also encouraged to take a preventative "cool-down rest" in the shade when they feel the need to protect themselves from overheating. Where cooling breaks are required, staff are monitored by their coworkers for the onset of heat illness related symptoms.

As temperatures approach the 90's, additional measures are taken to assure staff safety. The crews will conduct a pre-shift meeting to review high heat procedures, encouraging employees to drink plenty of water, and reminding them of their right to take a cooldown rest when necessary. This begins with a review of the symptoms of heat related illnesses and methods to avoid them. During the meeting crews also complete their Worksite Planning and Site Checklist. This checklist ensures that staff are aware of the projected weather conditions, and that steps are taken to mitigate its impact on the day's activities. The checklist also reviews the emergency medical procedures to be taken in the event of a heat related incident.

Supervisors are also encouraged to consider additional measures including alternating work hours to begin the workday earlier or structuring more labor-intensive work for the earlier part of the day. Where possible staff are paired with a partner so that they can monitor each other for heat illness symptoms.

Keeping employees safe is a top priority at all times, and the extra focus during the summer means we can continue to serve the City and keep infrastructure up and running.



Best Regards,

Martin Montalvo, Operations Manager

Roads

Get It While Its Hot

Dry weather and warm temperatures signals pavement marking season for the Roads team. Pavement markings such as turn arrows, stop bars, crosswalks and bike lane indicators are designed to last between five to seven years, depending on use. Every year the Roads team inventories these worn markings to plan their summer replacement schedule. This years' the team is focusing on replacement markings primarily in the Villebois and Charbonneau neighborhoods. After removing the old markings, asphalt is prepped for new markings to ensure the best adhesion for long term durability. New marking are applied using high heat, and are ready for traffic once they have cooled and bonded to the asphalt.



Crews are grinding out the existing striping using a grinder and pry bars where needed.

After the grinding and removal is completed, the area is cleaned and prepped to adhere to the new thermo plastic striping.



Roads

Markings Cont'd.



After the prep is completed, new striping strips are laid onto the surface. The striping is then adhered to the surface using a striping furnace. The striping furnace applies a consistent plain of heat over the material that allows for uniform adhesion of the material to the



Roads

Things Are Lookin' Up

You may have noticed some fresh new banners installed around town, thanks to your friends on the Roads crew. Newly printed banners are designed to highlight the Town Center area and help create some excitement about the revitalization of this central neighborhood in the near future. Keep an eye out for these stylish new addition to the City's seasonal décor.



Roads

Whose Right of Way Is It Anyway

City maintained Right-of-Way structures include landscaped areas that can require year-round attention. Planted with hardy ornamental trees and plants, these medians and bridges require trimming during the rapid growth that accompanies warm weather. Remember, the City does not maintain vegetation for private properties, and City code requires that sidewalks and streets be kept free from vegetation and other debris. Next time you're working in your yard, take a few minutes to ensure that the sidewalks and roadways adjacent to your property are in tip-top shape for pedestrians and cyclists. You can learn more about the City code section 6.208(c) and adjacent owner responsibilities [online](#).

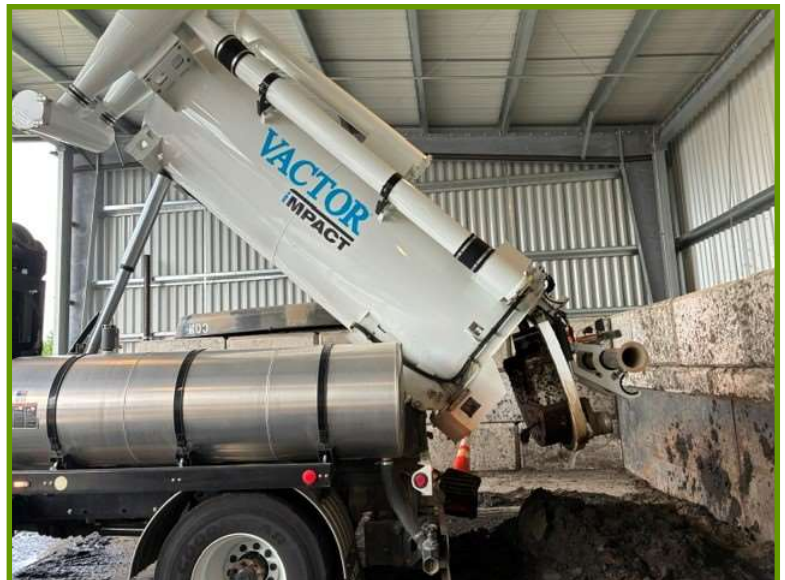


Stormwater

Catch Basin Catch Up

The Stormwater team made a clean sweep of more than 400 catch basins in the month of June. This month's cleanings prevented more than 60 cubic yards of potential pollutants from entering streams and rivers. Once catch basins are vacuumed out using the Vactor truck, the contents are brought back to the Public Works Complex decant facility. The debris is allowed to settle while liquid drains away from the solids. The liquid waste is carried through the wastewater system where it ultimately reaches the

Willamette Wastewater Treatment Plant for processing. Once most of the liquid is drained from the solids, they are transported to a disposal facility. As you might imagine, the decant facility can carry a pungent odor, so frequent trips to the disposal facility are a must.



Utilities

The Best Laid Plans

Before construction begins, Utility locates are marked to inform workers of the location of water, wastewater, stormwater and natural gas lines. The Public Works Utilities department provides this marking service for City owned water, wastewater, stormwater and fiber optic lines. Geographic Information System (GIS) data informs these markings and careful attention is paid to accuracy. Despite these markings, accidents do happen and occasionally an asset falls victim to construction work. In instances such as these, Public Works staff work with the construction contractor to address the issue as quickly and safely as possible. Upon arrival at the scene, the Utilities team must notify affected neighboring properties that water service may be temporarily suspended while repairs are made. After shutting down the affected section of the water main, repairs get moving. As the impacted line is repaired by the contractor, City Utilities staff remain onsite to oversee the work and ensure that all repairs are made according to the City's Public Works Standards. Despite the inconvenience, the repair was made quickly and affected parties experienced only minimal time without water service.



Utilities

Coming In Hot

The Utilities team has also been assisting the City's Engineering department who are performing inspections for several water main taps and the relocation of fire hydrants in the last phase of Villebois construction. Each newly constructed building requires three water taps, also known as hot taps. These connections to the existing water main are called 'hot' taps due to their installations taking place while the water main is active or 'hot'. Each building needs a domestic tap, an irrigation tap, and a fire line tap. Each tap is drilled directly into the city's water main. After the taps are connected, plumbers will run new private water line to a vault where the Utilities department can install the associated meter. The red saddle connection in the image below is where the new fire service connection to the building would be installed. The blue corporation stop (or corp stop) is the primary inline shut-off valve screwed directly into a pressurized municipal water main. The corp stop is where the new building would get its potable or irrigation water from.



Utilities

Do Not Use As Directed

In the past several years, 'flushable' wipes have become a standard in many restrooms. Despite manufacturer's claims, these wipes are not easily broken down and are made of materials that are not suitable for Wastewater Treatment plants.

To be effective for use, the wipes are made with a thick fabric structure, unlike regular toilet paper with a comparatively weak structure. So-called 'flushable' wipes are one of the most common causes for calls to a plumber - even before they reach the city infrastructure. Though convenient, flushing these wipes can cause them to become caught in pipes, sewer lift stations and motor impellers, causing significant damage and increasing the frequency of equipment maintenance. Wipes can also tangle with grease, hair, or other debris, which can lead to large blockages and in extreme cases present the risk of wastewater backup if pipes are badly blocked. If you prefer wipes, please don't flush them, dispose of them with the garbage. The attached [video](#) was produced by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and shows just how little breakdown occurs over a few days of wipes being in water.



Remember, trash the wipes and save your pipes!

Facilities

Window of Opportunity

Facility Supervisor Matt Baker and Facility Maintenance Technician Trevor Denfeld took advantage of City Hall being closed for the Juneteenth holiday by replacing three of the 20-year-old roof top HVAC units (RTU's). The units control temperatures in the Council Chamber, Willamette River One, and Willamette River Two meeting rooms.

Mechanical contractors Southland Industries were responsible for supplying the new equipment and scheduling the crane needed to remove the old units and place the new units on curb adapters. Once the units were in place, Southland performed all necessary mechanical work to get the units fastened down and commissioned. Working on a tight deadline with no room for error required detailed planning,

Facilities staff scheduled Eco Electric to disconnect and reconnect the high-voltage power supplied to the units, and Ainsworth to handle controls integration and programming with the City's building automation system. Finally, Matt and Trevor performed safety inspections of the seismic strapping that secure the units to the curbs.

A successful group effort with no disruption to business as usual for City Hall.



Facilities

But Wait, There's More....

Taking advantage of standby time during the HVAC unit install, Matt and Trevor worked alongside Eco Electric to switch out the 20-year-old belt driven exhaust fans adjacent to the RTU's being replaced. The crew utilized the roof top hoist that was installed in previous years to lower the old fans to the ground and lift the new fans to the roof top. Replacing old belt driven fans with new direct drive units eliminates the need to replace worn or broken belts and frequent oiling of bearings on the old units. In addition, the new units are variable frequency drives (VFD) which allows manual fine-tuning of the air flow by adjusting a knob on the units, either speeding up or slowing down the motors. An Ethernet port is also available, which will be used to tie them into the building automation system and possibly be used to alleviate future building pressure issues.



Facilities

Safety Rules!

Robert Todd performs the annual ladder inspections for the Public Works and Parks Maintenance teams. Robert collects over 90 ladders each year, pressure washes them, inspects them for defects, and applies new warning stickers when necessary. Once the inspections are complete, Robert documents the condition of each ladder and notifies the responsible party when he removes one from service. When a ladder is deemed unsafe, Robert saws it in half and disposes of it in the dumpster. This ensures that someone doesn't come along and dig the ladder out of the dumpster thinking that it is safe to use. Shown below is an example of a ladder that will be removed from service and disposed of.

