



City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities UTILITY TALK

Spring 2023

Natural Gas Wastewater Stormwater Water Streetlights

Serving Richmond, Henrico and North Chesterfield

Flood Season is Here: Know and Reduce Your Risk

Whenever there is rain, there is an opportunity for flooding, even if you live in a lower risk zone. Citizens are encouraged to know your risk, reduce your risk and insure your property.

Know Your Risk –

Learn more about your property's flood risk, the type of flood zone it is in and, if available, the potential flood elevation (also known as the base flood elevation). For this information check out FEMA's online Flood Map Service Center at msc.fema.gov/portal/.

Flood map changes are coming to our community. Learn about the proposed changes from the last Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) at <https://arcg.is/1XOmjj>. The City of Richmond will hold public meetings on the preliminary FIRM after it is released. If you are interested in learning more about these public meetings, email dpuc@rva.gov.



Reduce Your Risk –

- Elevate and anchor air conditioning condensers, heat pumps, water meters and other service equipment onto pedestals or platforms that are at least 1-foot above the potential flood elevation. In high-risk zones, it's recommended to go above the regulatory flood elevation for the property. This inexpensive action can help prevent significant equipment damage and utility disruption following a flood event.
- Clean out gutters and downspouts so rainwater from your roof can easily flow from your home. Make sure all nearby storm drains are clear of debris and properly functioning.
- Install a rain barrel. A rain barrel is an alternative method for collecting rainwater. Rain barrels are typically connected to gutter downspouts and collect the runoff from roofs. You can use this stored water for watering your lawn and gardens or washing your car.
- Reduce impervious surfaces around the home. Water runs off concrete and asphalt almost immediately and then travels directly into our drainage system. During heavy rains the capacity of storm sewers fills quickly, so retaining and creating natural green space around your home can reduce stormwater runoff and help reduce sewer volume. Consider adding rain gardens or permeable pavements to your homes to allow more water to be absorbed by the ground.

Insure Your Property –

Whether you own or rent your home/apartment/non-residential building, it is critical to protect yourself and your loved ones from property loss and structural damages caused by flooding. Flood insurance is a separate policy that can cover buildings, the contents of a building, or both. To purchase flood insurance, you can start by calling your home or auto insurance company or insurance agent.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Richmond participates in the National Flood Insurance Program, which means all citizens are eligible for flood insurance, even if they don't live in a high-risk flood zone. As a Community Rating System community, citizens are eligible for a discount on their premium. If you need help finding a provider, visit floodsmart.gov/flood-insurance-provider or call the NFIP at 877-336-2627. There is typically a 30-day waiting period before the policy goes into effect, so do not wait until there's flood risk.

Stay Updated On Utility Projects

Updating and maintaining the City's aging infrastructure requires continuous utility projects. While necessary and often times critical, these projects can detour routes, delay traffic, increase noise/activity in the area and bring about other disruptions. Stay informed on the duration and purpose of current long-term projects by using our new Project Work Impact Map. For more information visit rva.gov/public-utilities/news. Follow @DPUStreetNews on Twitter for up to date utility work and impacts.

Go Behind The Scenes of DPU at Citizens Academy

It's that time again! If you missed it last year, your chance to join DPU for the 2023 Spring Citizens Academy is happening in a few weeks. The Citizens Academy is a four-session workshop open to Richmond residents and employees interested in learning more about DPU's daily and specialized operations. Citizens will meet weekly for two hours to gain insight into DPU's mission and services through presentations from DPU professionals, facilities tours and demonstrations. Registration opens in late March and applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis with first time participants given priority. If you are interested in joining the mailing list to receive the application, email dpuc@rva.gov.



Working for DPU is More Than a Job, It's a Career!

Delivering safe, clean and reliable water and gas services requires a team of committed employees that take pride in the work they do. If you're looking for a rewarding career, the City of Richmond Department of Public Utilities invites you to explore open positions. From service technicians, equipment operators, electricians and plumbers to support functions in finance, customer service and organizational support, there are a variety of jobs in which you can gain valuable experience and opportunities for growth. Regardless of education, experience or area of expertise we encourage you to check out available positions, and potentially find the career for you. We are seeking to fill positions with both experienced applicants and entry level candidates with emerging talent. For more information on current job openings visit bit.ly/dpujobs or scan the QR code.



Five Spring Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

1. When using a hose, control the flow with an automatic shut-off nozzle.
2. Test soil for nutrient content. Add organic matter if needed to absorb and improve water retention.
3. Inspect irrigation systems for leaks, or broken or clogged sprinkler heads.
4. Leave your grass height at about 3 inches. It'll hold moisture better and reduce evaporation.
5. Use a broom rather than a hose to clean off patios, sidewalks, driveways, etc.

Stay connected with us for more information on programs, events and conservation tips.

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