

Summary of Incident and Claim

On the night of January 9, 2013, Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) Dispatch Office received a call of water coming up in front of Saint Mary's Church at 261 East 8th Street. Trucks were dispatched and it was determined that the 3-inch cast iron water service to the church was leaking. The leak was controlled and on January 10, 2013, SPRWS excavated and made repairs.

On the morning of January 10, a call was received in the Dispatch Office from Lancer Service, Inc. reporting flooding in their basement across the street at 270 East 8th Street. SPRWS took photographs and documented the damage. Water and sand were observed in the basement. Various potentially water-damaged items were photographed and an inspection report was completed.

By Statute, the Board is responsible for losses resulting from water main breaks or internal plumbing failures only in cases of negligence. However, in this case, SPRWS records show prior failure of this same water service piping. Specifically, on May 27, 1995 the 3-inch service to 261 8th Street broke and caused flooding of the Church. At that time, a claim was filed and SPRWS settled with the Church. With the 2013 leak, a claim in the amount of \$2,973.10 was filed by the Church and SPRWS settled that claim. Staff reasoned SPRWS had prior knowledge this piping was vulnerable and could have acted to prevent a break by replacing the piping.

Accordingly, SPRWS staff requested Risk Management to settle the claim brought by Lancer Service, Inc. on behalf of the Board.

At this time, Sandra Bodensteiner of Saint Paul Risk Management recommends the amount of \$8,546.79 be paid to Lancer Service, Inc. as final settlement of all property damage claims related to this incident.

As a follow-up, on October 23, 2013, SPRWS replaced the 3-inch cast iron water service to Saint Mary's Church with 4-inch ductile iron pipe.