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Pipeline Express

Providing reliable, quality water and services at a reasonable cost.

Lead Free SPRWS: 10-Year Project
Gaining Momentum with Major 2025 Goals

By Brent Marsolek

Lead Free SPRWS, an ambitious 10-year lead service line replacement program, officially launched in 2023 following a pilot year in 2022. The program has been steadily gaining momentum, with a major increase in planned replacements for 2025.

Since its inception, the program's completion rate has grown significantly. In 2022, 305 lead service lines were replaced, followed by 614 in 2023 and 1,045 in 2024.

This year, the program is on track to complete 2,300 replacements—more than doubling last year's total.

Properties were selected for replacement based on two main criteria:

Proximity to construction projects – including SPRWS water main upgrades and projects led by other agencies.

Census data indicators – prioritizing areas based on environmental justice factors and the density of children under five years old.

Of the 2,300 planned replacements in 2024, approximately 260 will be completed by our SPRWS distribution division, with contractors handling the remaining work.

Major 2025 Projects on the Horizon

This year, three large-scale projects will drive further progress across multiple neighborhoods:

Como/Western
(Managed by SPRWS Engineering Division)

~520 lead service line replacements

113 inactive lead services to be cut off at the main

East Side
(Managed in partnership with CDM Smith, Inc.)

~590 lead service line replacements

47 cut-offs

Central City
(Largest 2025 project, also managed with CDM Smith)

~780 lead service line replacements

73 cut-offs

Additionally, contractors will complete unfinished work from 2024 projects, adding another 122 replacements and 58 cut-offs.

Looking Ahead

The program aims to continue ramping up efforts, with a projected **3,000 replacements in 2026** and **3,500 replacements annually from 2027 to 2029**, before gradually scaling down to **1,500 replacements in 2032**.

By maintaining a structured approach—gradually increasing capacity and then scaling down—Lead Free SPRWS is on track to **remove all lead service lines by the end of 2033** while ensuring efficiency and minimizing disruptions.

With the momentum from 2025's major projects, the program remains firmly on course to achieve its long-term goal: a lead-free future for all SPRWS customers.

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Story ideas? Contact Jodi Wallin, 651-266-6308 or Jodi.Wallin@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Want to work our community outreach events?

Take the training to learn more about SPRWS and become eligible

By Josh Cobb

Are you passionate about connecting with our community and representing SPRWS at local events? Exciting news: We're kicking off the 2025 Community Engagement season with training sessions led by Josh Cobb, our public information specialist!

Why Training Matters

To become eligible to work at community engagement events and enjoy the benefits of being part of the team, employees must complete the required training. This training is designed to equip you with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to represent SPRWS effectively. Everyone, regardless of position or title, is required to go through training to participate in events!

What You'll Learn

During the training, you'll gain insight into:

- SPRWS's mission and key programs, including Lead Free SPRWS.
- Effective ways to engage with the public at events.
- Policies and procedures for event participation, including attire, conduct, and staffing expectations.
- New positions and responsibilities for employees at events

The staffing needs required to pull off each event

GET QUALIFIED FOR EVENTS: UPCOMING TRAINING DATES

April 9 and July 9 at 3 p.m.

Administration cafeteria

For more information, contact Josh Cobb at:

Email: Joshua.Cobb@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Phone: 651-266-6289

Why Join the Team?

Last year, the Community Engagement Team participated in over 40 events, connecting with thousands of community members and showcasing the amazing work SPRWS does. Whether you enjoy public outreach, sharing knowledge, or simply want to make a difference, this is your chance to be part of something impactful, rewarding, and fun! So far, the team has trained and has more than two dozen people equipped with the knowledge to be at events. Come get trained to be a part of this quickly growing team!

Training Details

Dates: Training will occur twice this year. Once on Wednesday, April 9 and again on Wednesday, July 9 with both starting at 3:00 p.m.. in the administration cafeteria.

Training session will be approximately 60-90 minutes.

Next Steps

Don't wait! Sign up for the training and take the first step toward joining the Community Engagement Team. For more information, contact Josh Cobb at:

Email: Joshua.Cobb@ci.stpaul.mn.us

Phone: 651-266-6289

Make a Difference in 2025!

This is your opportunity to shine as the face of SPRWS and help us build stronger connections with our community.

Upcoming Events:

Sustainability Fair on April 26, **Touch-A-Truck** on May 10

WaterFest on May 31

West STP Parade + WestFest on June 7

Highland Tower Open House on July 19-20

Food Truck Fest on August 8

RLA Summer Block Party on August 16

Highland Tower Open House on October 11-12

Safety First: 2024 Saw 38 Workplace Injuries

By Chuck Olson and Tom Miller

At SPRWS, safety is our top priority. We want every employee to go home at the end of the day in the same condition they arrived. However, in 2024, we recorded 38 workplace injuries. Some were serious enough to be classified as OSHA recordable, but every incident provides an opportunity to improve safety.

Injury Overview & Prevention

Here's a breakdown of the most common injuries and how we can work together to prevent them:

Repetitive Stress (8 cases): Repeated motions, such as turning valves or frequent lifting, can lead to muscle and joint strain. Rotate tasks when possible and use proper ergonomics to reduce strain.

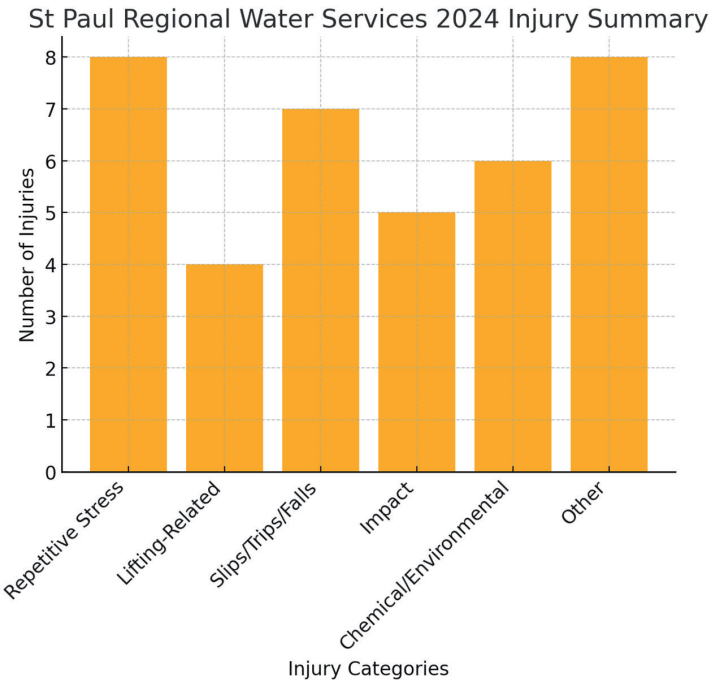
Lifting-Related (4 cases): Improper lifting techniques can cause lower back or shoulder injuries. Always bend your knees, keep loads close to your body, and ask for help with heavy or awkward objects.

Slips, Trips, and Falls (7 cases): Uneven surfaces, wet floors, and small missteps can lead to falls. Stay aware of your surroundings, wear appropriate footwear, and report hazards immediately.

Impact Injuries (5 cases): Tools, equipment, or heavy objects can cause bruises, cuts, or worse. Use protective equipment, secure tools properly, and ensure machine guards are in place.

Chemical/Environmental (6 cases): Exposure to chemicals or elements like poison ivy can be serious. Always wear the correct protective gear and follow safety protocols.

Other (8 cases): This category includes vehicle accidents, sudden muscle strains, and miscellaneous incidents. Staying alert and following best practices can help minimize risk.



Reporting Injuries – Why It's Important

No matter how minor an injury may seem, reporting it immediately is critical. Delays can lead to worsening conditions and make it harder to get proper care. Plus, we need to know about injuries to provide necessary accommodations and prevent similar incidents in the future.

What to Do If You Get Hurt

- **Emergency? Call 911.** Your health and safety come first.
- **Report the Injury Right Away.** Notify your supervisor immediately.
- **Seek Medical Attention If Needed:**
- Visit **HealthPartners Saint Paul Clinic** (205 S Wabasha Street)
- Call **CorVel** at **612-436-2500** for additional care options
- Complete steps 5 & 6 in the Green "Work-Related Injury Packet" Available in all SPRWS vehicles or from Chuck Olson or Tom Miller
- Employees and supervisors must complete required injury forms
- Submit completed forms to Chuck Olson

Supervisors: In addition to filling out the supervisor's report, assist employees with questions about CorVel and ensure they provide updates on their recovery.

Employees: Use your **CorVel ID Card** (inside the Green packet) when seeking medical care to ensure proper billing.

Don't Skip the Work Ability Form!

After each medical visit, obtain a **Work Ability Form** and give it to Chuck Olson (**651-775-6853, chuck.olson@ci.stpaul.mn.us**).

This form is essential for making work accommodations and ensuring a safe return. We need it to adjust your work tasks properly.

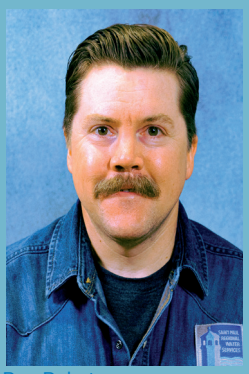
If follow-up care is needed, you can continue with CorVel, choose another provider in the network, or provide documentation from an existing provider.

PROMOTIONS

Panha Chan

Craig Landkamer

Eric Larson



Ben Robetor

Staff recently promoted at the water utility include the following:

Panha Chan will now hold the title of driver as well as his water utility worker I title, effective March 22.

Craig Landkamer was promoted to a vehicle mechanic supervisor II on December 28, 2024.

Eric Larson has been promoted to a heavy equipment operator, effective March 8.

Ben Robetor has been promoted to a water utility tech. III effective as of March 8.

Job opportunities online

The water utility has two job opportunities available for the general public.

SPRWS is hiring a GIS specialist I. The position closes at 11:59 p.m. on April 2.

The utility is also hiring several water utility trainees this year. This posting closes on March 31 at 11:59 p.m.

Both postings can be found at stpaul.gov/jobs and must be applied for online.

Louis Sirian passes away

Louis "Lou" Sirian, retiree, passed away on Feb. 15. He started work for the water utility in 1957 as a watershed laborer and became a truck driver in 1978. He left the utility in 1981 after 24 years of service. Our condolences go out to his family, friends, and former co-workers.

Willy Water joins Mayor in parade

Willy Water joined Mayor Melvin Carter III in marching in the St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Saint Paul on Monday, March 17.