



# Pipeline Express

Provide high-quality water and exceptional services to the people and communities we support

February 6, 2026



## 2025 Illness and Injury Report

In 2025, Saint Paul Regional Water Services recorded 17 OSHA-recordable injuries. There were no fatalities, and no occupational illnesses reported. The majority of cases were musculoskeletal injuries, primarily back, knee, groin, wrist, and shoulder strains, most often linked to manual material handling, lifting, shoveling, awkward positions, and repetitive tasks.

Key highlights:

- 3 cases involved days away from work
- 14 cases involved job transfer or restricted duty
- 77 total days away from work
- 544 total restricted or transfer days

Back strains alone accounted for the largest share of injuries and lost time.

Several incidents involved repetitive vibration (tamping), slips on ice, and contact with equipment or trench systems.

The data shows a clear trend: overexertion and body positioning remain our highest risk factors, especially during field operations and utility work in the right-of-way.

### What this means going forward

- Continued focus on lifting techniques, task planning, and use of mechanical aids
- Reinforcement of Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) before physically demanding work
- Emphasis on line-of-fire awareness, ergonomics, and winter walking conditions
- Early reporting and intervention to prevent minor strains from becoming long-term injuries

**Bottom line:** Most of these injuries were preventable. The goal for 2026 is fewer injuries, fewer lost days, and safer work through better planning, training, and hazard recognition.



Molly Coleman



Stephanie Levine

## Board Adds New Commissioners

Saint Paul Regional Water Services (SPRWS) welcomes two new members to the Board of Water Commissioners, reflecting continued regional and city leadership in overseeing the water system that serves Saint Paul and surrounding communities.

Saint Paul City Council Member Molly Coleman was appointed to the Board earlier this year as one of the City Council's representatives. Coleman represents Ward 4 on the Saint Paul City Council and was sworn into office in August 2025. As a Board member, she participates in utility oversight, policy direction, and long-term planning that supports safe, reliable drinking water service.

A lifelong Saint Paul resident and graduate of Saint Paul Public Schools, Coleman brings a background in public service, education, and legal advocacy. Prior to joining the City Council, she co-founded and served as Executive Director of the People's Parity Project, a national organization focused on democratic reform and access to justice. Her work on the Council has emphasized equity, responsive public services, and community engagement—perspectives that align closely with SPRWS's public mission.

SPRWS also welcomes Stephanie Levine, Mayor of Mendota Heights, who was appointed to the Board of Water Commissioners in December 2025. Mayor Levine's term officially began on January 1, 2026, and will run through December 31, 2027.

Mayor Levine grew up in Saint Paul and has served as Mayor of Mendota Heights since January 2021, bringing more than 30 years of ties to the community. Her prior public service includes roles on the Mendota Heights Parks and Recreation Commission, where she served as chair, and seven years on the ISD 197 School Board, including leadership positions as treasurer and vice chair.

Professionally, Mayor Levine has extensive experience as an actuary, providing a strong foundation in financial analysis, risk management, and long-term planning. This expertise supports the Board's responsibilities related to fiscal stewardship, infrastructure investment, and sustainable utility operations.

SPRWS looks forward to working with Council Member Coleman and Mayor Levine and appreciates their willingness to serve in these important governance roles in support of regional collaboration and public trust.



Staff and interns promote the water utility at one of more than 60 community events last year. Interns are being sought again this year to help with community outreach, marketing and PR, security, water quality, GIS, and water main construction inspections.

## Staff sought in a variety of roles

Now hiring a new business division manager, interns and a data systems analyst

The water utility is hiring several new interns and a systems analyst in our IS section, along with a business division manager.

### **Business Division Manager**

The business division manager will join our executive leadership team. This role will serve as a strategic partner and will help shape the long-term sustainability of the utility. The business division manager provides leadership across finance, customer service, meter operations, and information systems, and plays a key role in advancing high-impact initiatives including asset management and cost accounting expansion, AMI rollout, and critical customer assistance programs. We're looking for a forward-thinking leader with experience in public-sector finance or utility operations who's passionate about innovation, collaboration, and improving the customer experience.

### **Interns Sought**

Interns are being sought across a variety of departments. A PR and marketing intern, as well as one in community engagement and safety and security are being sought in the administration division.

Engineering is hiring a GIS intern and three water main construction inspection interns. Water quality is looking for two interns in the water quality lab. If any of these positions sound like you or someone you know, learn more and apply at [www.stpaul.gov/jobs](http://www.stpaul.gov/jobs) by the end of the day on February 23.

### **Data and Systems Analyst**

In addition, there is an opening for a promotional full-time position in the IS section. A data and systems analyst and BI developer is being sought to support and maintain enterprise applications and data platforms, with a focus on advanced SQL, analytics, and system integrations. The position closes at midnight on Feb. 17. Please apply at [stpaul.gov/jobs](http://stpaul.gov/jobs) under internal postings.

# Use Your FSA Dollars by Feb. 14

Make sure you get reimbursed for all of the money you put into your 2025 flexible spending account. You will lose money remaining in your 2025 FSA account you have not claimed it by 4:30 p.m. on February 14. Flexible spending accounts can be for medical expenses, dependent care, and parking.

If you have an FSA or VEBA/HRA account, you should have received an email, mailing, or handout from BRI (Benefit Resource, Inc.) or the city on their behalf providing you with instructions on how to check on the balances in your account with them.

If you have not used the site before, go to [www.BRIweb.com](http://www.BRIweb.com) and log in then choose employee and click on the register an account link. Follow the instructions.

You will need your social security number, company code (StPaul), name, zip code, and email or phone number.

Use the site to look up balances and file for reimbursement for 2025 claims.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact BRI customer service at 1-800-473-9595, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. or email BRI at [participantservices@benefitresource.com](mailto:participantservices@benefitresource.com).

## SPRWS Seeks to Showcase Utility Talent at MN AWWA



We are looking for 4-5 volunteers to form a Men's Pipe Tapping Team and two volunteers to form a Hydrant Hysteria Team for the September 2026 MN AWWA conference.

These events are a great opportunity to:

- Represent SPRWS with pride
- Network with utility professionals from across the state
- Support a meaningful cause
- Have some fun while showcasing our skills

Ideally, these teams would be made up primarily of distribution employees who perform this work daily.

However, if needed, we can open participation more broadly.

If you are interested in being considered, please reach out to Racquel Vaske directly. Your consideration is appreciated and the utility looks forward to reestablishing strong, positive SPRWS participation at these events.