

# GENERAL MANAGERS REPORT

Racquel Vaske  
General Manager

Winter Main Breaks



Spring Hiring Needs



# Main Breaks

Water mains are a critical part of a drinking water utility's infrastructure, when a main fails, it can disrupt water service, reduce fire protection, damage streets, and require emergency repairs.

## Size and Scale of the SPRWS System

SPRWS operates and maintains approximately **1,200 miles** of water main across the service area. These mains vary widely in size, typically ranging from 6 inches to more than 42 inches in diameter, depending on the area served and the amount of water needed.

Larger transmission mains move water long distances, while smaller distribution mains deliver water directly within neighborhoods.

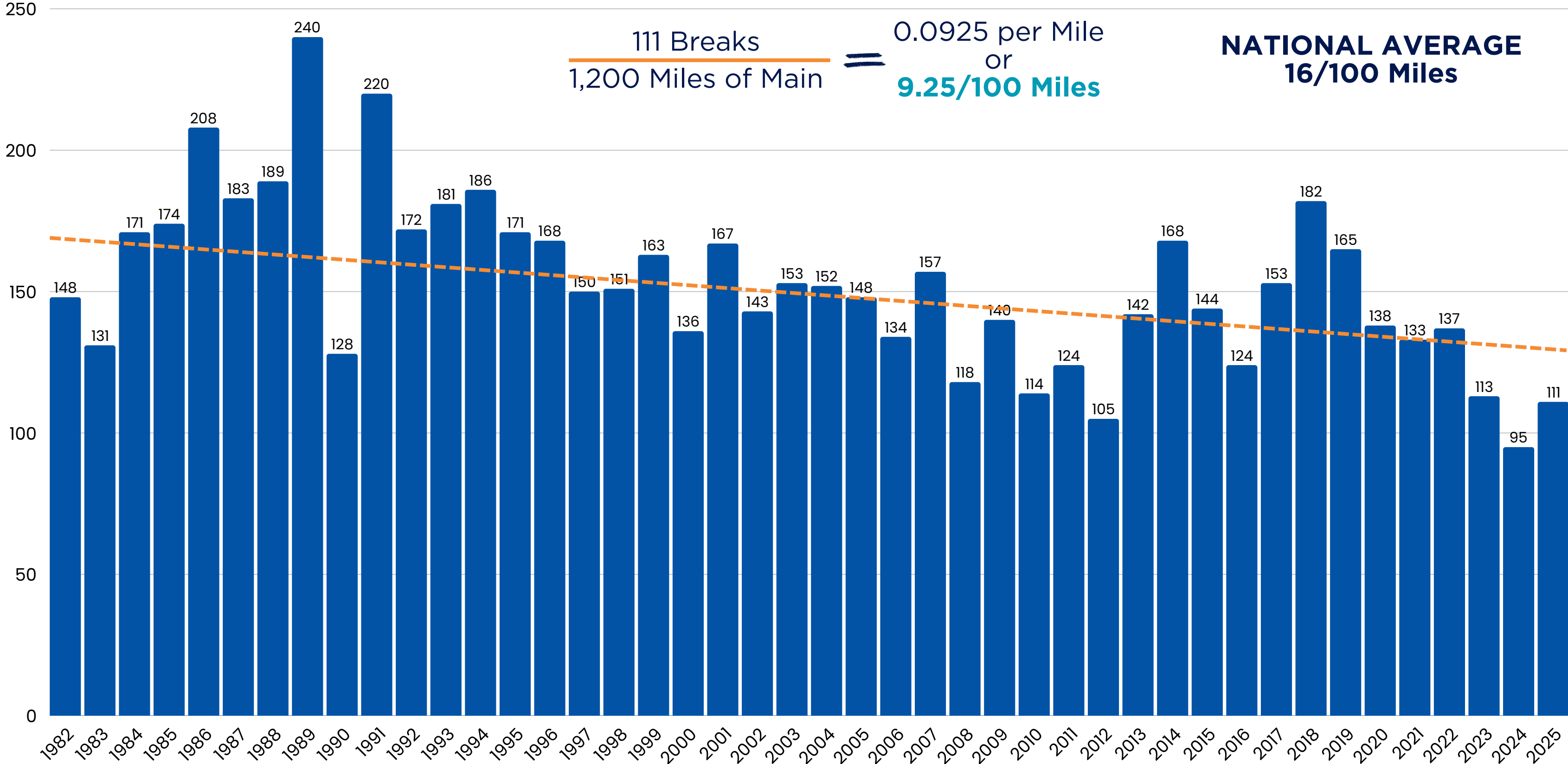
## What Affects Water Main Lifespan?

The expected lifespan of a water main is influenced by multiple factors, including:

- **Age** – Older pipes are more prone to failure. At SPRWS, about one-third of the system is more than 100 years old.
- **Pipe material** – Different materials (cast iron, ductile iron, steel, PVC) perform differently over time.
- **Soil conditions** – Corrosive soils and moisture levels can accelerate pipe deterioration.
- **Installation practices** – Construction standards have improved over time; older installations may lack modern bedding or corrosion protection.
- **Water pressure and demand** – Higher pressures and frequent pressure changes increase stress on pipes.
- **Traffic and surface loads** – Heavy vehicles and construction activity above mains can contribute to failures.
- **Break history** – Pipes that have failed before are more likely to fail again.



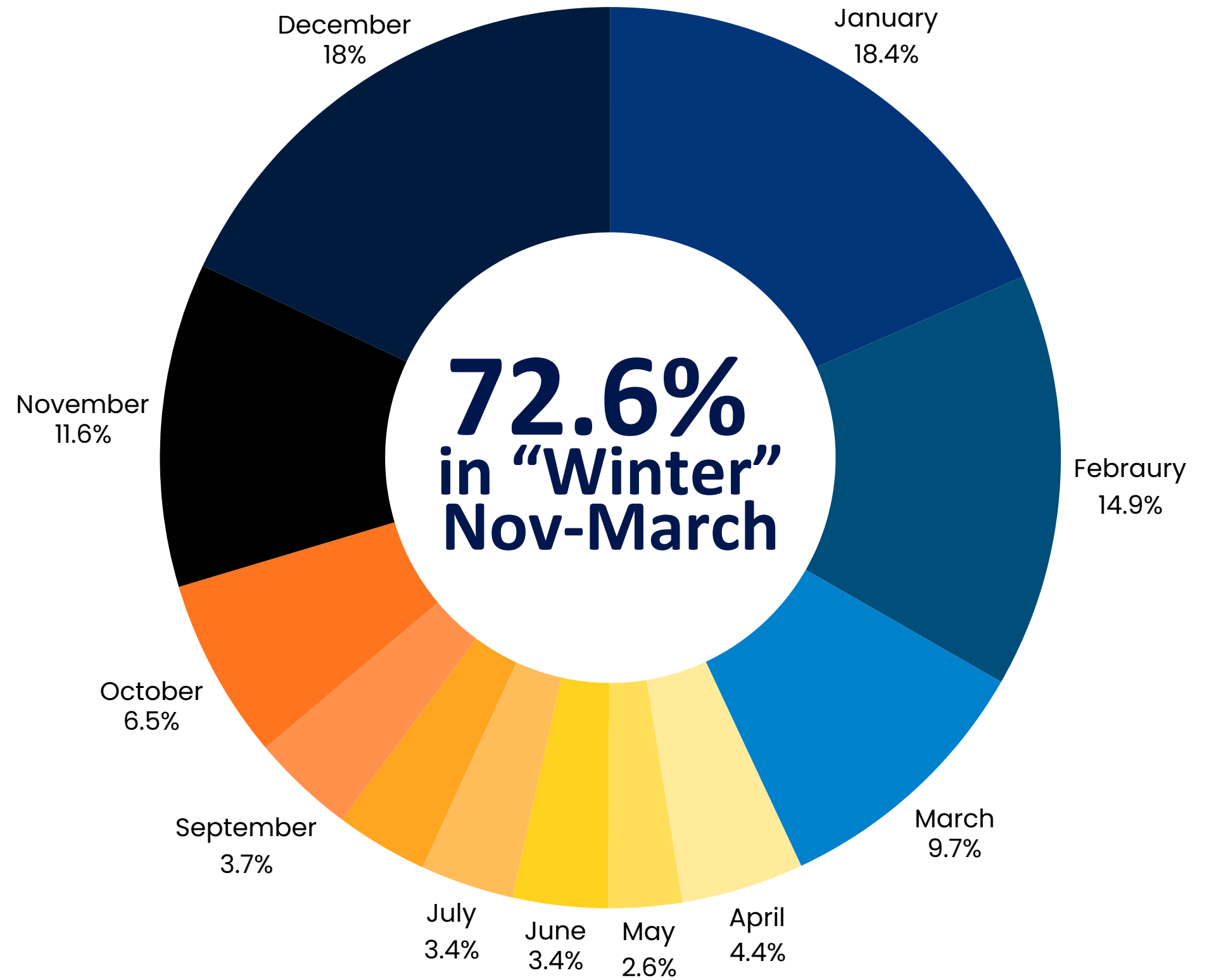
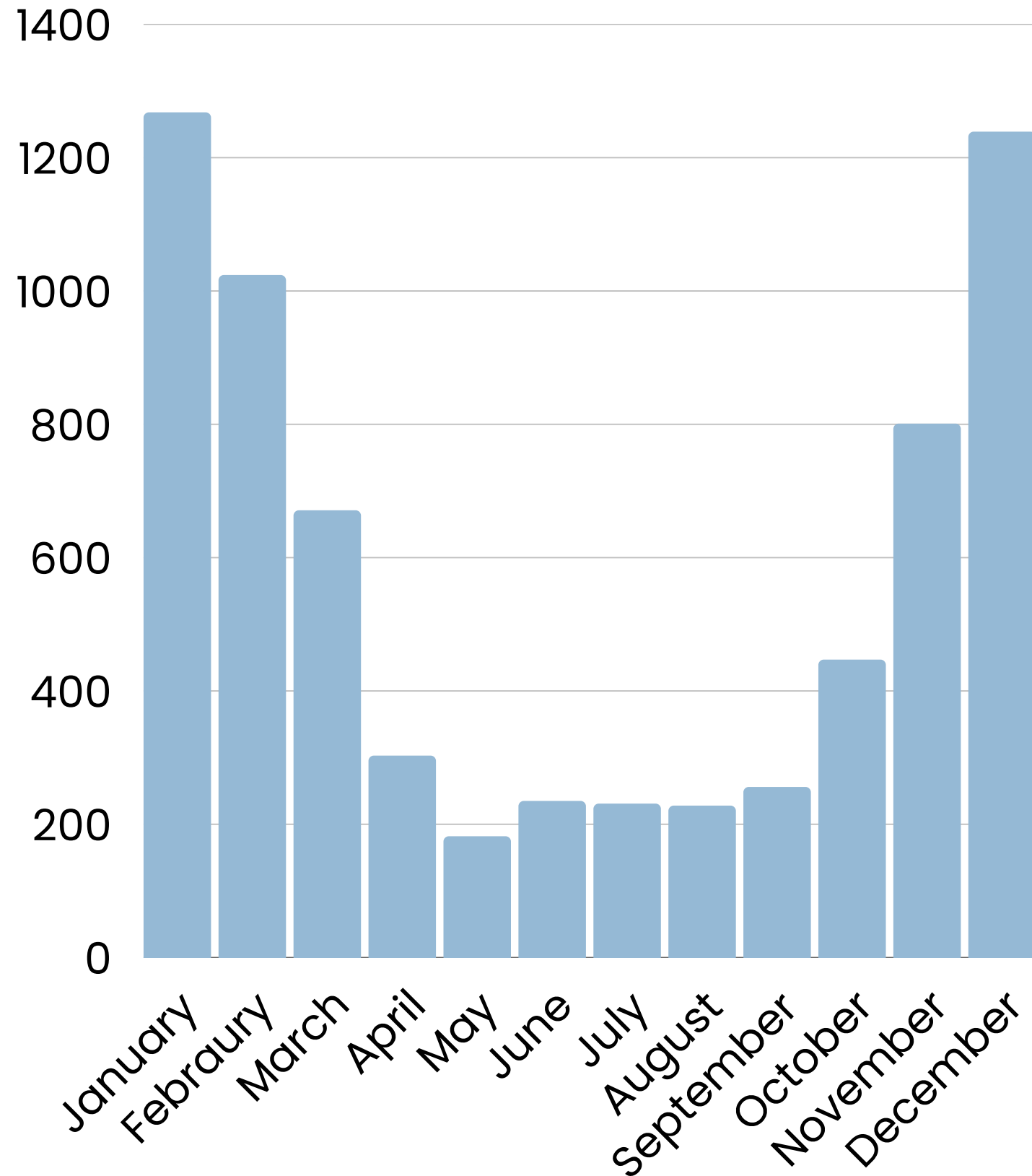
# Main Breaks by Year (1982-2025)



111 Breaks  
1,200 Miles of Main = 0.0925 per Mile  
or  
**9.25/100 Miles**

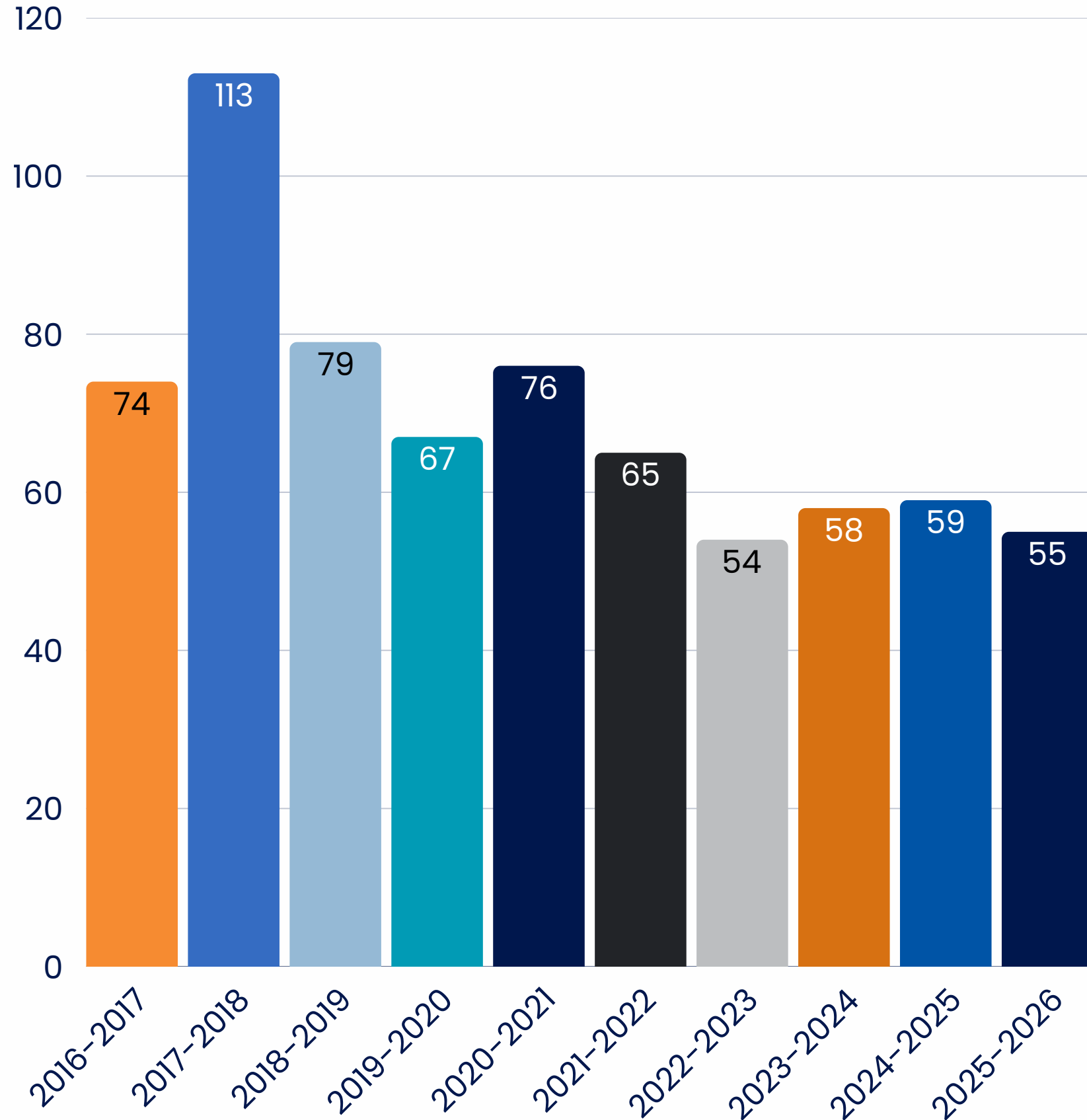
**NATIONAL AVERAGE  
16/100 Miles**

# Main Breaks by Month (1982-2025)



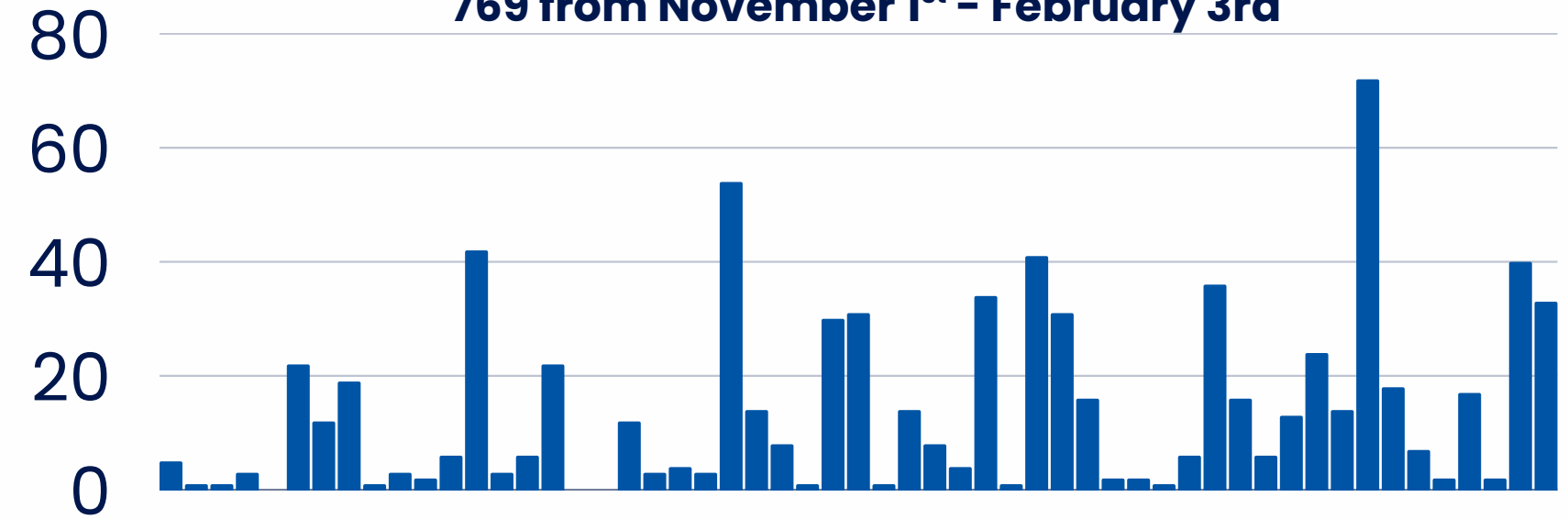
# How Does this Winter Compare?

## Main Breaks from November 1st-February 3rd



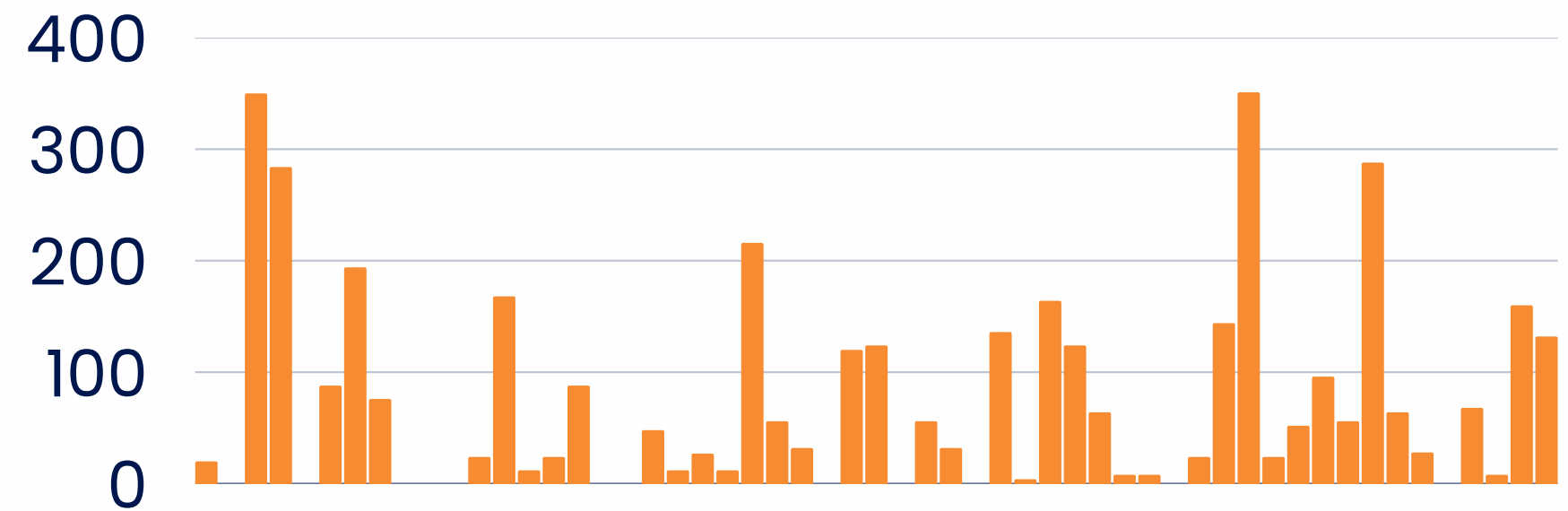
## Service Lines Impacted by Break

769 from November 1<sup>st</sup> - February 3<sup>rd</sup>



## Estimated # of People Impacted by Break

4,066 from November 1<sup>st</sup> - February 3<sup>rd</sup>



Tiered resident per unit estimate based on housing type.  
2 for downtown multifamily, 3 for other multi-family, and 4 for single-family residential.

# Spring Hiring

## UTILITY TRAINEE

5 External Hires  
(168 applicants)

## WATER UTILITY WORKER I

5 Utility Trainees  
Promoting to WUWI  
+  
10 External Hires (198 applicants)

## BUSINESS MANAGER

26 Applicants (so far)  
  
Posting Closes 2/23

## PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGER

Posting Soon  
  
Oversees Fleet, Safety, Security,  
and Maintenance

## IS ANALYSTS

2 External Hires  
(188 applicants)

## SUMMER INTERNS

10 External Hires  
Marketing + PR  
Community Engagement  
Water Quality  
Construction Inspection  
Safety and Security