

Crews Focus on Preventive Care for Sewer, Storm Lines

Brentwood's Public Works Department has been cleaning storm drains and catch basins since summer to prevent floods that could be caused by clogged storm lines during the rainy season.

The work is part of a broader preventive maintenance operation that also clears sewer lines from a household's property line to the City's main sewer lines, says Dustin Bloomfield, a City Wastewater Maintenance Supervisor.

Brentwood is one of just a few cities with a "Lateral Maintenance Program" for sewer lines, says Bloomfield. Crews go out daily to do preventive maintenance.

The program uses a pair of specially equipped vehicles:

- A camera truck with a video camera and a push camera that allows crews to inspect lines 4 to 36 inches in diameter.
- A Vac-Con truck which combines high-power water jets with a vacuum system to scour the lines.

Crews in the camera trucks identify defects and breaks, locate roots and other intrusions in the pipes and record them on a DVD, says Bloomfield.

The Vac-Con truck has 500 feet of hose with a rotating cleaning head that can shoot jets of water at 300 psi pressure. Combined with a vacuum unit, the truck can pull out debris as large as boulders from the lines.

The hose can also be fitted with a "forward piercing head" to break up plugs in the lines, says Bloomfield.

Since its start four years ago, the Lateral Maintenance Program has helped reduce calls about backed up lines from nearly one every day to about one every two months, Bloomfield says.

The City is broken out into four separate grids. Crews start with one grid, move to the next and so on until the entire City is covered.

"It takes us about three years to do the whole City," Bloomfield says. Then the crews start all over again from the beginning.



— Public Works Photograph

New Vac-Con truck is a key piece of equipment for maintenance of sewer, storm lines.

As with the sewer maintenance, the City is broken out into grids for storm drain maintenance, he says.

"We go into catch basins and take out leaves and debris," he says. "We start at the end of summer and try to get all the accumulated debris out before the first big rain since the lines drain into Marsh Creek."

This year's storm drain maintenance

was just about done in November. Most of the problem spots were in the older parts of the City including the downtown where older designs allow more debris to get in and older trees produce a lot of falling leaves.

Anyone with a clogged line should call the Public Works Department at (925) 516-6060.

Where to Store Garbage, Recycling Carts

Brentwood residents are reminded that waste and recycling carts must be kept out of public view after they have been serviced by the City's Solid Waste crews.

Berenice Arteaga, the City's Senior Code Enforcement Officer, says that her office routinely receives complaints from residents about neighbors' carts being left out in front of driveways, causing an unsightly nuisance.

City ordinance requires all residents to keep garbage and recycling carts out of public view, behind side or rear yard gates on all but regular waste collection days.

Garbage, Recycling Pickups Not Affected by Holidays

Garbage and recycling collections in the City of Brentwood will not be affected by the Christmas and New Year's holidays this season.

Christmas Day and New Year's Day both fall on a Sunday.

The collection crews of the City's Solid Waste Division will be working a regular schedule on both Mondays, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, following the holidays.

Carts should not be placed on the street earlier than 24 hours before the collection date and should be removed no later than 24 hours after collection.

Residents leaving town for an extended time should arrange with a neighbor to take care of their carts.

Violators will receive a courtesy letter stating that their containers were visible and to please relocate them out of sight.

Failure to comply could result in City enforcement action, Arteaga says. To report a possible violation or for more information call (925) 516-5405.

Residents whose regular collection day is Monday for recycling or garbage should place their carts out at the curb as usual.

Garbage and recycling collections throughout the week following the Christmas Day and New Year's Day also will not be affected by the holidays.

For more information, call the Solid Waste Division at (925) 516-6090.