



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crews continue to battle wastewater leak at Cypress Creek

Bypass remains intact—crews addressing minor leak from other temporary plugs installed.

After stopping a massive wastewater spill from a broken 96 inch pipe into south Cypress Creek and nearby McKellar Lake, crews began working on a much smaller leak from an a plug installed in an older pipe that was detected by personnel on the scene.

The 60 inch pipe is an older part of the wastewater system but was taken out of service when the newer 96 inch pipe was installed.

Crews placed a plug in the 60 inch pipe line early on as part of the bypass operation, however the plug did not seal properly and began to leak, releasing an estimated 1000 gallons of wastewater per day.

The new leak was discovered after water levels in Cypress Creek dropped. Personnel worked overnight to address the leak and installed a concrete plug Friday morning to permanently seal the 60 inch pipe and ensure no future leaks.

While this second leak was a minor temporary setback, this did not affect the bypass of the 96 inch pipe that had stopped the major wastewater spill into the creek. The Public Works department remains focused on the next phase of operations which is to repair the main pipe.

We cannot stress enough how important it is for people NOT to have contact with the water until further notice. The Shelby County Health Department warns E. coli levels remain too high for recreational use.

The cost of repairs is funded by sewer fees.

Next steps include:

- Permanent repair of the pipe.
- Tennessee Department Environment and Conservation will continue to test the water twice per week.
- The City Of Memphis will bring in an environmental expert to advise our Public Works Director on cleaning up efforts.
- We will continue to cooperate with our federal, state and local partners, the Coast Guard, TDEC, TWRA, Shelby County Health Department, Office of Preparedness, Memphis Police and Memphis Fire.
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