



For more information:  
Rick Jackson  
[Rick.Jackson@bwwb.org](mailto:Rick.Jackson@bwwb.org)

**BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS AGGRESSIVELY TACKLING LEAKS FROM COLD WEATHER**  
WATER SYSTEM STILL FEELING EFFECTS FROM LOW TEMPS NOT SEEN SINCE 1989

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** (January 11, 2023) – The Birmingham Water Works (BWW) system continues to feel the effects of the historic low temperatures reached during the month of December. Crews have been working since that time to repair major leaks caused by the freezing of the soil and underground pipes.

“Not only did we experience a significant number of leaks due to the late December cold weather, which reached sustained lows that we haven’t seen since 1989, but new leaks continue to appear in places that are less visible and detectable,” said Birmingham Water Works General Manager Michael Johnson. “As a result, our crews continue to aggressively move to repair all leaks, and our customer call volume remains high as well. We know that many individual customers also experienced leaks at their homes and on their personal property, and it’s really been frustrating for them,” he said.

Johnson said BWW’s ongoing strategic plan includes performing more than \$72.3 million in 2023 for infrastructure improvements. The 2023 budget includes \$25 million for the BWW’s pipeline replacement program and \$18.2 million for maintenance and repair projects. The pipeline replacement program’s goal is to reduce maintenance and lost water by replacing unlined cast iron and galvanized steel pipe. “Galvanized steel pipe and unlined cast iron pipe accounts for 67 percent of all system leaks and other maintenance activity,” Johnson said.

“We are focused on repairing every leak caused by the cold weather, which is still going to take some time. Our Birmingham Water Works employees are one team dedicated to the continuous improvement to the delivery of the nation’s highest quality drinking water at the lowest possible rates for our residential and business customers,” Johnson said.

**ABOUT BIRMINGHAM WATER WORKS BOARD:** Founded in 1951, the Birmingham Water Works Board serves 770,000 people in Jefferson, Shelby, Blount, St. Clair, and Walker counties. The BWWB operates four filtration plants, a certified testing laboratory, and has more than 4,000 miles of pipe in its distribution network. For more information about the Birmingham Water Works Board, media inquiries, or tours of our museum, please call 205-244-4225 or visit [www.bwwb.org](http://www.bwwb.org).

Media Contact: [publicrelations@bwwb.org](mailto:publicrelations@bwwb.org) | 205-244-4225

# # #