

LEAGUE CITY

TEXAS

League City Communications & Community Engagement

Mission: To be the driving force in openly and effectively communicating information about the City of League City, providing dynamic, creative, and comprehensive communications services to our internal and external customers and engaging the citizens of League City in the government process. The primary responsibility of this office encompasses all aspects of dissemination of information to League City residents and local media.

Current Communication Channels

Electronic Media

The Official League City Website
League City Intranet Site
League City Listens
Email
Online Newsletter
Media Toolkit
Online Videos
City Electronic Signs
LCTV16 - PEG Channel

Community Partnerships

City Council
HOA Organizations
Schools and Daycares
Information Workshop
Community Meetings
Local/City Events

Print Media

City Matters Magazine
Flyers
Mailers
Door Hangers

Social Media

Facebook
Nextdoor
Twitter
Instagram
YouTube
LinkedIn

Media Relations

Community Impact
I45 Now
Houston Chronicle

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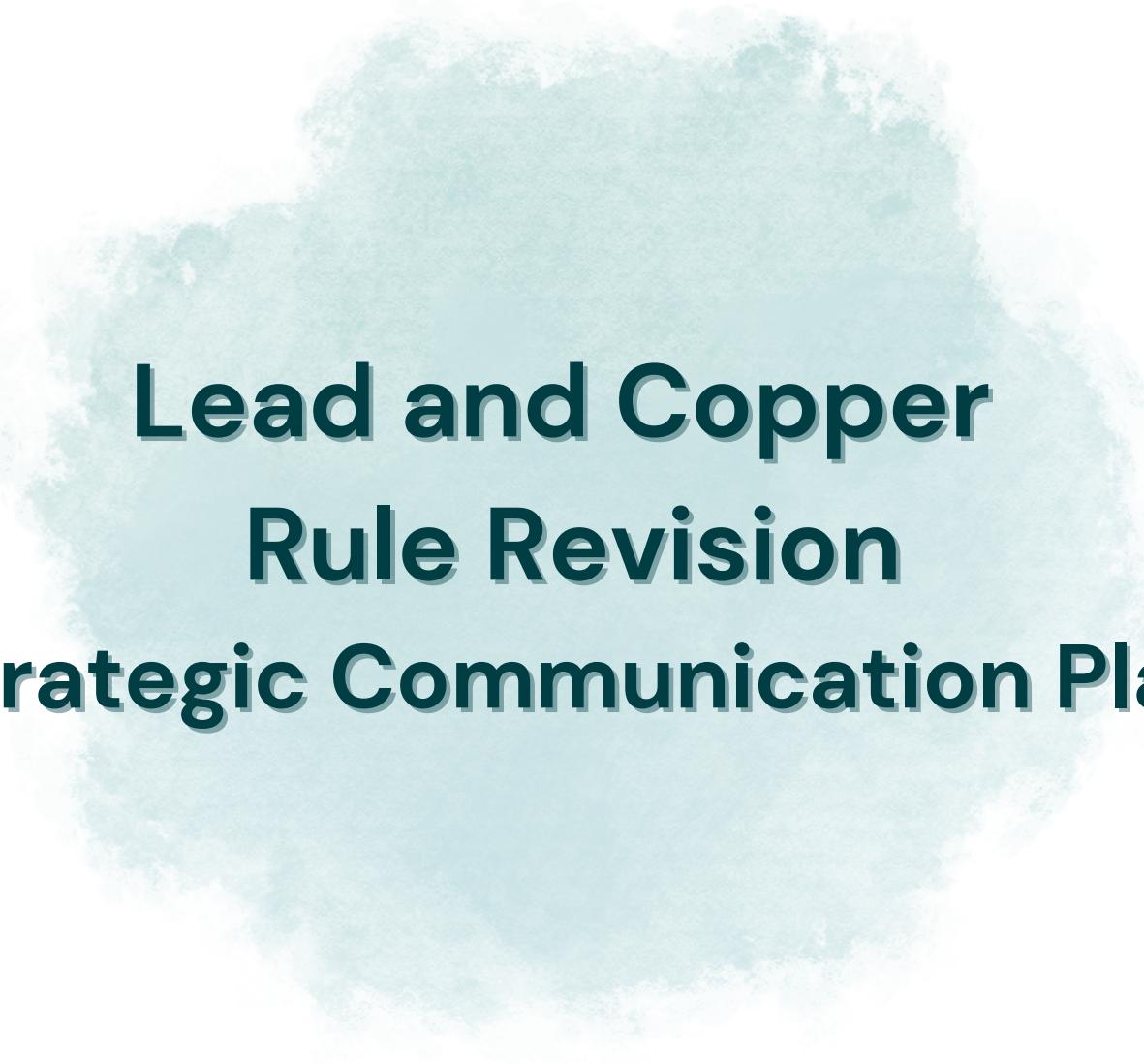
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Lead and Copper Rule Revision Strategic Communication Plan

Navigating the Lead and Copper Rule Revision

Background

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently revised its Lead and Copper Rule to reduce acceptable lead levels found in safe drinking water and further limit the potential for lead exposure posed by community-based water distribution systems. This revision entails four parts: the identification of all service line materials, the replacement of identified lead service lines, the annual notification of residents' service line status and the utility maintenance of lead levels lower than established in the rule revision. At this time, the primary concern of League City Officials and the City's Public Works Department is the identification of all service line materials. To comply with this revision, cities are required to create an inventory of all service lines located within their water distribution systems - including both utility and private-side service lines. As a result, the City has defined a year-long communication plan to educate necessary stakeholders on the requirements of the revision. The plan is intended to focus on residents with an unknown service line status and encourage participation in the creation of an inventory through the use of established media and community relations.

Note: As of July 2023, League City's Public Works Department has initiated efforts to create a service line inventory. Based on a recent review of building documentation, officials have verified that 2/3 of all service lines located in League City are lead-free.

Target Audience

External Stakeholders:

Residents (ALL)

Residents with an Unknown Status (US)

Prospective Residents

Schools and Daycares

Homeowners' Associations (HOAs)

Realtors

Plumbers

Media

Internal Stakeholders:

Public Works

City Council

City Staff

Goal

Effectively communicate information to assist League City's Public Works Department in complying with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revision.

Objectives

#1: Educate all internal and external stakeholders on the EPA revision and steps League City is taking to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

#2: Leverage community relationships to increase awareness and participation in League City's compliance with the new EPA revision mandate.

Objective #1: Educate all internal and external stakeholders on the EPA revision and steps League City is taking to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

Strategy #1: Deliver consistent, transparent and timely information.

Tactic #1: Create and maintain a webpage that is easily accessible from the League City website.

Metrics: Number of Users, Pageviews, Sessions, Engagement and Traffic Sources

Target Audience: All Stakeholders

Tactic #2: Create an educational social media campaign via Facebook and Nextdoor with regularly scheduled posts.

Metrics: Reach, Engagement and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: All Stakeholders

Tactic #3: Publish an article in the Fall 2023 issue of City Matters Magazine, with a follow-up article scheduled for the Summer 2024 issue of City Matters Magazine.

Metrics: Number Distributed and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: Residents (ALL)

Tactic #4: Pitch an article to local news media outlets, including Community Impact, I45 Now and Houston Chronicle.

Metrics: Number of Stories Produced

Target Audience: Media

Tactic #5: Create a comprehensive flyer of information to be available at all city facilities.

Metrics: Number Distributed and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: Residents (ALL) and City Staff

Tactic #6: Create an informational insert to be mailed out with residents' water bills.

Metrics: Number Distributed and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: Residents (US)

Tactic #7: Create a series of videos including an explainer, "how-to," "Lunch and Learn" and "Short Updates," to post to the website, social media and League City's PEG channel.

Metrics: Reach and Engagement

Target Audience: All Stakeholders

Tactic #8: Share relevant content on www.leaguecitylistens.com to encourage open feedback with stakeholders.

Metrics: Reach and Engagement

Target Audience: All Stakeholders

Tactic #9: Utilize city events including League City's Eco Fest and National Night Out to distribute educational materials.

Metrics: Attendance, Number Distributed and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: Residents (ALL)

Tactic #10: Host online town hall meetings via Facebook Live, allowing viewers to ask questions and interact with city staff.

Metrics: Reach and Engagement

Target Audience: All Stakeholders

Tactic #11: Include an introductory article in the City Manager's Week in Review electronic newsletter.

Metrics: Number of Deliveries, Clicks and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: All Stakeholders

Tactic #12: Implement League City's intranet services to educate employees through email blasts.

Metrics: Number of Deliveries, Opens, Clicks and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: City Staff

Strategy #2: Provide up-to-date information as changes occur throughout the revision timeline.

Tactic #1: Schedule regular meetings with the Public Works Department to review any updates or changes to the revision timeline.	
Metrics: Attendance and Participation	Target Audience: Public Works
Tactic #2: Utilize social media platforms, including Facebook and Nextdoor, to post updates not included in regularly scheduled posts.	
Metrics: Reach and Engagement	Target Audience: All Stakeholders
Tactic #3: Include monthly updates in the City Manager's Week in Review electronic newsletter.	
Metrics: Number of Deliveries and Clicks	Target Audience: All Stakeholders
Tactic #4: Send quarterly email blasts through the utility billing email database.	
Metrics: Number of Deliveries, Opens and Clicks	Target Audience: Residents (US)

Strategy #3: Target additional educational and informational efforts at stakeholders with a higher potential for identifying lead service lines on their property.

Tactic #1: Host town hall meetings in high-risk communities where lead service lines are most likely to be identified.	
Metrics: Attendance and Participation	Target Audience: Residents (US)
Tactic #2: Utilize flyers and door hangers to inform stakeholders of their higher risk and the future review of the communities for the presence of lead service lines.	
Metrics: Number Distributed	Target Audience: Residence (US)

Objective #2: Leverage community relationships to increase awareness and participation in League City's compliance with the new EPA revision mandate.

Strategy #1: Utilize the City Council's platform to share and reinforce accurate information within the community.

Tactic #1: Host an educational workshop for the City Council in the fall of 2023.

Metrics: Attendance and Participation

Target Audience: City Council

Tactic #2: Provide an electronic media toolkit with informational flyers and videos to share with residents, and an FAQ for future reference.

Metrics: Utilization and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: Residents (ALL)

Strategy #2: Prepare HOAs as a resource to educate residents about the EPA revisions.

Tactic #1: Present knowledgeable city staff at the September HOA Alliance meeting to share current information on the revision and encourage HOAs to create committees to support their communities in revision compliance.

Metrics: Attendance, Participation and Utilization

Target Audience: HOAs

Tactic #2: Provide an electronic media toolkit to HOA presidents with informational flyers and videos to share with the HOAs, and an FAQ for future reference.

Metrics: Utilization and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: Residents (ALL)

Tactic #3: Provide knowledgeable city staff to speak at HOA meetings upon the request of an HOA representative.

Metric: Attendance and Participation

Target Audience: Residents (ALL)

Tactic #4: Work with HOAs that have the most incidents of identified lead service lines to host informational community meetings in the targeted neighborhoods.

Metrics: Attendance and Participation

Target Audience: Residents (US)

Strategy #3: Inform local schools and daycare providers about the EPA revision and utilize them as a resource to distribute information throughout the community.

Tactic #1: Meet with Clear Creek ISD and Dickinson ISD representatives to arrange a provided supply of printed, information flyers for all schools located within League City.

Metrics: Participation, Number Distributed and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: Schools and Residents (ALL)

Tactic #2: Work with campuses near neighborhoods that have the most incidents of identified lead service lines to host community meetings at the schools.

Metrics: Attendance and Participation

Target Audience: Residents (US)

Tactic #3: Send a city staff member to inform local daycares of the EPA revision and supply them with printed, informational flyers to distribute.

Metric: Participation, Number Distributed and Percent of Website Traffic

Target Audience: Daycares and Residents (ALL)

Strategy #1: Brief local realtors on the EPA revision and use them as an educational resource for clients about current guidelines.

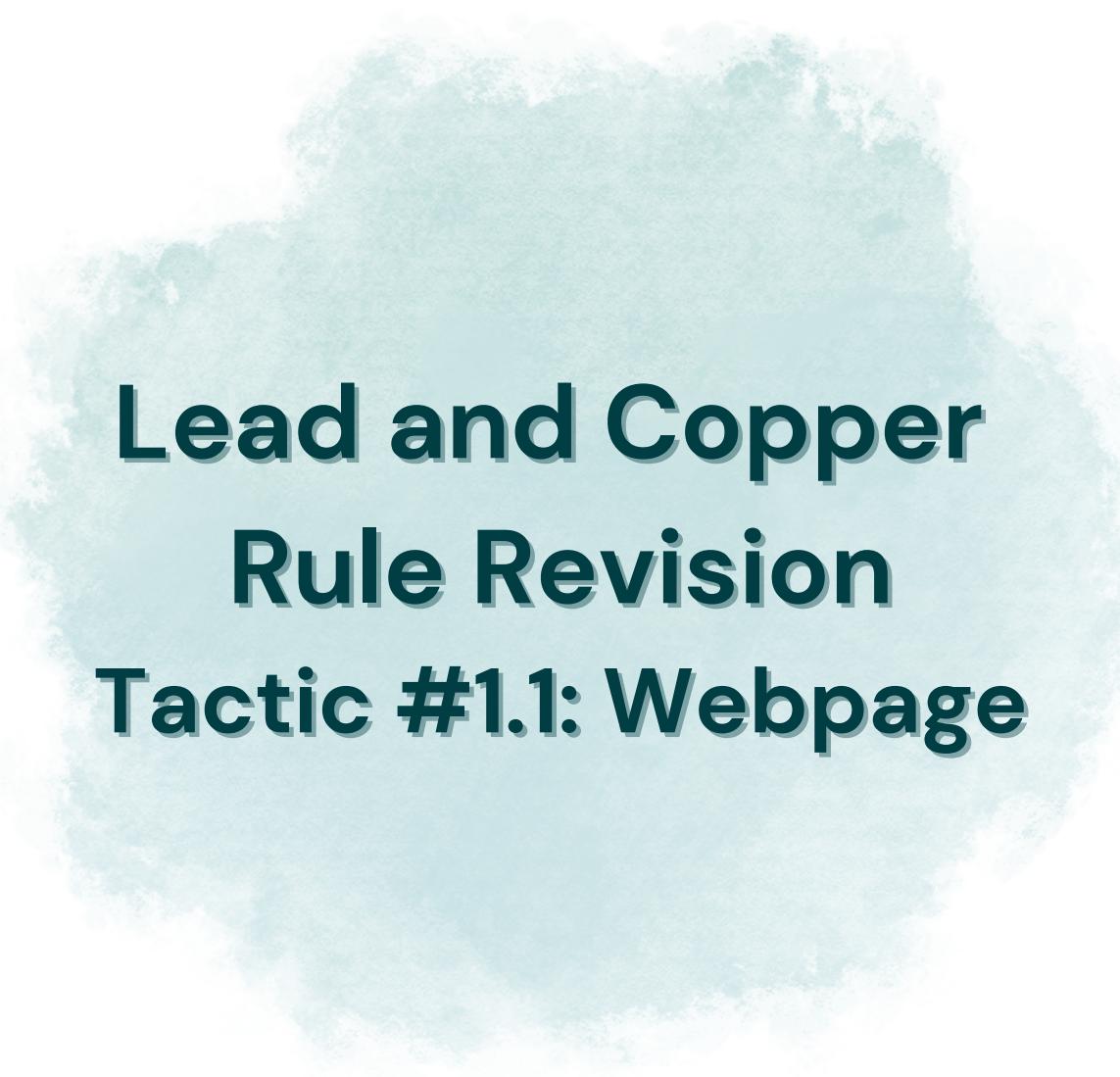
Tactic #1: Work with the Women's Council of Realtors Bay Area Network to send an email blast to local realtors about the EPA revision.

Metrics: Number of Deliveries, Opens, Clicks and Percent of Website Traffic	Target Audience: Realtors
Tactic #2: Follow-up with current information and updates presented at the Spring 2024 Realtor Breakfast.	
Metrics: Attendance and Participation	Target Audience: Realtors
Tactic #3: Provide an electronic media toolkit to realtors with flyers and other informational materials to share with clients.	
Metrics: Utilization and Percent of Website Traffic	Target Audience: Residents (ALL) and Prospective Residents

Strategy #1: Notify local plumbers of the EPA revision and position them as a resource for residents who may or already have identified lead service lines.

Tactic #1: Work with the City's Planning Department to obtain a list of local plumbers and send an email blast with information on the EPA revision.

Metrics: Number of Deliveries, Opens, Clicks and Percent of Website Traffic	Target Audience: Plumbers
Tactic #2: Host educational sessions both in-person and via Zoom to inform plumbers of the EPA revision and encourage them to promote inventory compliance as part of their offered services.	
Metrics: Attendance, Participation and Utilization	Target Audience: Plumbers and Residents (ALL)



Lead and Copper Rule Revision

Tactic #1.1: Webpage



INVENTORY
STATUS MAP

MATERIAL
IDENTIFICATION

SERVICE LINE
SURVEY

LEAD LINE
REPLACEMENT

LEAD AND
HEALTH RISKS

NEW FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS TO SAFEGUARD DRINKING WATER

In response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recent revision of the Lead and Copper Rule, League City is asking homeowners to help our Public Works Department comply with new federal requirements to ensure the integrity of our tap water by:



CHECKING THE CURRENT STATUS OF THEIR SERVICE LINE

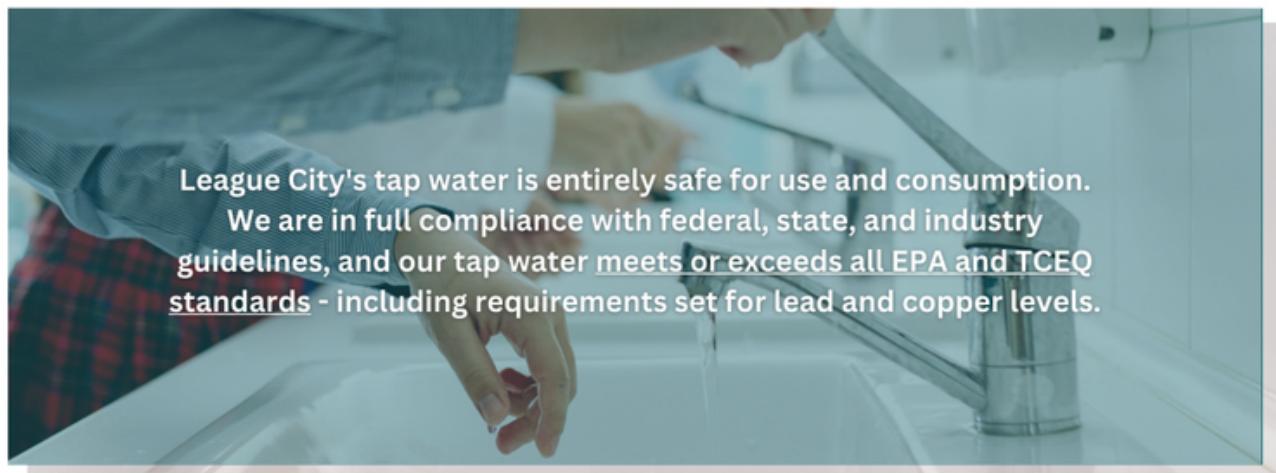


PERFORMING A SIMPLE INSPECTION OF THE SERVICE LINE MATERIAL



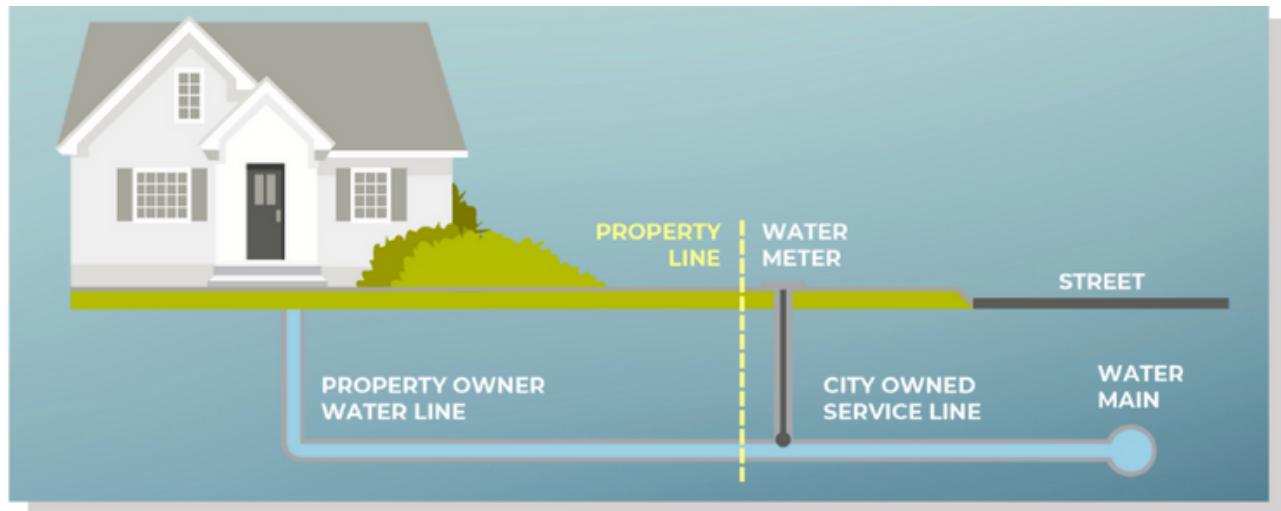
REPORTING THE RESULTS TO OUR ONLINE INVENTORY SYSTEM

While the rule was originally established in 1991 to enhance public safety by reducing copper and lead levels found in drinking water, the most recent Lead and Copper Rule Revision focuses on limiting cases of lead contamination in the United States by eliminating the use of all lead service lines. To achieve this goal, the revision first requires cities nationwide to inventory their water distribution system for the presence of lead service line materials. After the inventory is complete, then cities can develop a plan to remove and replace identified lead service lines - if any - with safer, non-lead materials. The EPA has given cities until October 16, 2024, to comply with the initial inventory requirements of this revision.



A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: SERVICE LINE INVENTORY & REPLACEMENT

The service line is a small, buried pipe that transports water from the water main to homes and other buildings. League City and its residents share the responsibility of maintaining the service lines located on residents' property. As a result of this, League City's Public Works Department will inventory the service line extending from the water main in the street to the meter box, but residents are responsible for surveying the remaining portion from the meter box to the home or building. At this time, the Public Works Department has already initiated efforts to identify service line materials within our community and is on track to meet EPA requirements by the initial compliance date.



Lead found in tap water is primarily caused by lead-based pipes and fixtures used in a portion of the service line.

Before your water leaves the treatment facility, it undergoes a series of tests and treatments to ensure the highest quality water is delivered to your home. From there, it flows through the distribution system to the water main - after which is where a homeowner may be susceptible to the risk of lead exposure. If the following service line, whether a utility or private-side line, contains lead materials, then your tap water is at risk of contamination if the water were to corrode the inside of the pipe and cause lead leaching.

While older developments are not guaranteed to find lead in their service line materials, there is a higher likelihood of identifying lead service lines present in areas developed before January 1, 1989, due to the Safe Drinking Water Act (1986) effectively banning the use of lead in public water systems and household plumbing. As of July 2023, almost 2/3 of all service lines located in League City, including some private-side lines, have been certified lead-free based on a recent review of utility billing documentation and appraisal district assessment data verifying development build and water line installation occurring after this 1989 effective date.

WHAT WE NEED FROM HOMEOWNERS

CHECK YOUR SERVICE LINE STATUS

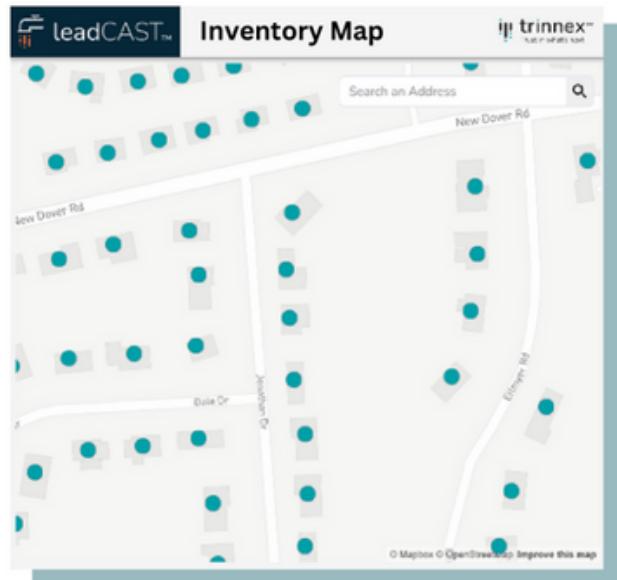
First, check the current status of your service line materials with the leadCAST Inventory Map. Once you identify the location of your property on the map, click the circle highlighting your address to reveal a breakdown of the service line materials and determine your next steps.

IDENTIFY THE SERVICE LINE MATERIAL

Next, using the instructions [below](#), locate your service line and identify the type of material found in the private-side portion of the line.

REPORT TO OUR ONLINE INVENTORY SYSTEM

Lastly, once you've self-identified your service line material, [report](#) that information to our online inventory system, leadCAST. Without submitting your private-side line survey, League City cannot verify the materials used in that portion of your service line and, therefore, cannot guarantee the quality of your tap water.



If the status of your private-side line is labeled **Non-Lead**, then you do not need to take any additional steps.

If the status of your private-side line is labeled **Unknown**, then continue steps to self-identify and report the material of your service line.

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR SERVICE LINE MATERIAL

WHAT YOU NEED: A PENNY, A MAGNET, AND ACCESS TO THE SERVICE LINE.

STEP 1: MAGNET TEST

HOLD THE MAGNET CLOSE TO THE SERVICE LINE AND SEE IF IT STICKS TO THE PIPE.

STEP 2: SCRATCH TEST

USE THE PENNY TO SCRATCH THE SURFACE OF THE PIPE, THEN CHECK THE COLOR OF THE SERVICE LINE.

LEAD

MAGNET TEST RESULTS:

NO, THE MAGNET DOES NOT STICK TO THE SURFACE OF THE PIPE.

SCRATCH TEST RESULTS:

THE MATERIAL IS SOFT, SCRATCHES EASILY, AND IS A SHINY, SILVER COLOR.



GALVANIZED STEEL

MAGNET TEST RESULTS:

YES, THE MAGNET DOES STICK TO THE SURFACE OF THE PIPE.

SCRATCH TEST RESULTS:

THE MATERIAL DOES NOT SCRATCH AND REMAINS DULL GRAY.



COPPER

MAGNET TEST RESULTS:

NO, THE MAGNET DOES NOT STICK TO THE SURFACE OF THE PIPE.

SCRATCH TEST RESULTS:

THE MATERIAL SCRATCHES TO REVEAL A COPPER COLOR, LIKE THE PENNY.



COPPER

MAGNET TEST RESULTS:
NO, THE MAGNET DOES NOT STICK TO
THE SURFACE OF THE PIPE.

SCRATCH TEST RESULTS:
THE MATERIAL SCRATCHES TO REVEAL A
COPPER COLOR, LIKE THE PENNY.



PLASTIC

MAGNET TEST RESULTS:
NO, THE MAGNET DOES NOT STICK TO
THE SURFACE OF THE PIPE.

SCRATCH TEST RESULTS:
THE MATERIAL IS SMOOTH AND REMAINS
RED, BLUE, BLACK, OR WHITE.

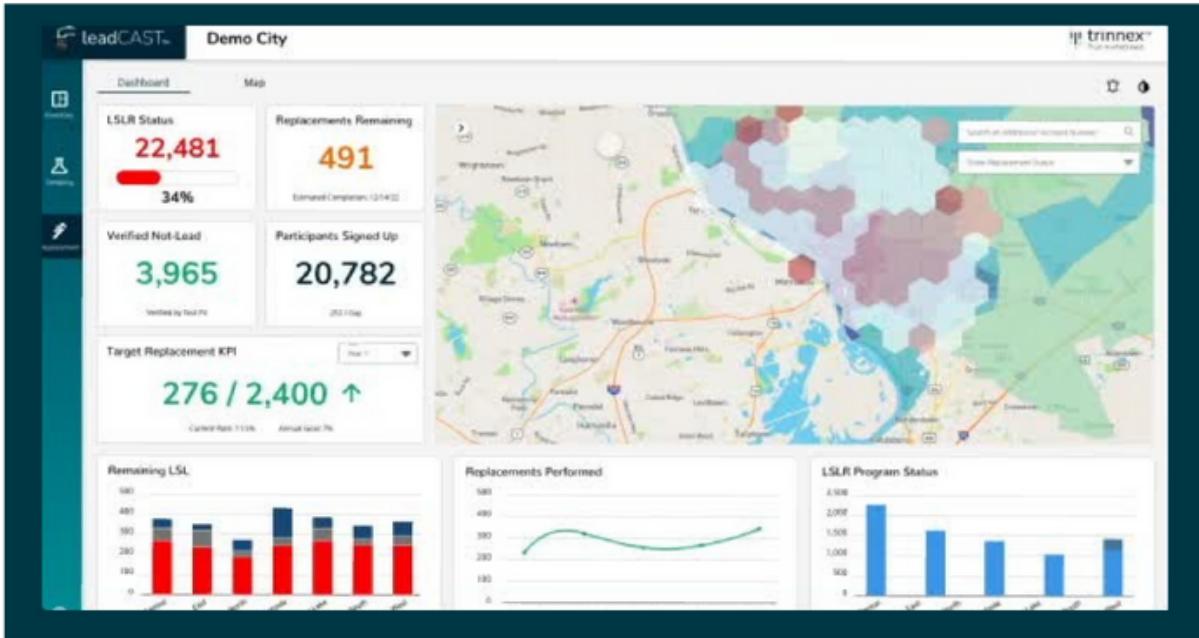


IF YOU'RE STILL NOT SURE... CALL A PLUMBER!



Watch on  YouTube

SERVICE LINE SURVEY



1. Click on "Sign Up" at the bottom of the page.
2. Fill in all fields on the registration form - your "Account Number" can be found on your water bill.
3. Press "Submit," and you will receive an email to verify your account.
4. Log in to leadCAST and select the "Customer Survey" option.
5. Report your service line material by uploading photos and results to your customer account.

LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

Currently, there are no EPA guidelines or federal requirements set for the process of replacing lead service lines. Additionally, League City's Public Works Department cannot begin to create or implement a plan of action for service line replacement until after all potential lead service lines are identified at the completion of the service line inventory in October 2024.

Fortunately, the likelihood of lead contamination in League City is relatively low due to routine monitoring and treatment of the water distribution system that ensures minimal corrosion inside pipes and fixtures where lead leaching could occur. Nonetheless, if you do identify a lead service line present on your property, League City highly recommends taking immediate action to replace the service line material and reduce lead exposure, if possible.

While League City has applied for a grant from the Texas Water Development Board to financially support all aspects of EPA revision compliance, any potential amount or details of the grant will remain unknown until after inventory submission. Because of this, League City cannot guarantee financial coverage or reimbursement for service line replacement now or in the future.

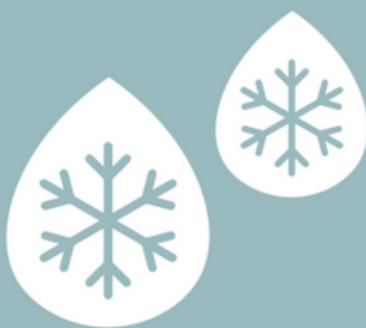
WHAT IS LEAD?

LEAD IS A SOFT, SILVERY MATERIAL THAT NATURALLY EXISTS IN OUR ENVIRONMENT. FOR MANY YEARS, IT WAS COMMON TO USE LEAD IN PRACTICES SUCH AS CONSTRUCTION AND PLUMBING. HOWEVER, IN THE MID-1970S, SCIENTISTS RECOGNIZED A CORRELATION BETWEEN LEAD EXPOSURE AND CERTAIN HEALTH-RELATED CONCERNS THAT, EVENTUALLY, SET IN MOTION MULTIPLE RULINGS TO BAN THE USE OF LEAD IN VARIOUS PRODUCTS, INCLUDING PIPES AND OTHER HOME FIXTURES.

LEAD IS TOXIC TO HUMANS

IF PRESENT, CONSUMPTION OF OR EXPOSURE TO LEAD AT HIGH LEVELS PRESENTS A SERIOUS HEALTH RISK. LEAD IS STORED IN THE BONES AND CAN BECOME A PROLONGED HEALTH ISSUE THAT CAN CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE BRAIN, KIDNEYS, AND LIVER, AMONG OTHER INTERNAL SYSTEMS. INDIVIDUALS AT THE GREATEST RISK INCLUDE INFANTS, CHILDREN, WOMEN WHO ARE OR MAY BECOME PREGNANT, AND ADULTS WITH PRE-EXISTING HEALTH CONDITIONS. LEAGUE CITY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS RELATED TO LEAD.

STEPS TO REDUCE LEAD EXPOSURE



COLD WATER IS BEST FOR COOKING, DRINKING, AND PREPARING BABY FORMULA.

DO NOT USE HOT OR BOILING WATER TO COMBAT THE PRESENCE OF LEAD. HOT WATER MAY CORRODE PIPES FASTER OR DISSOLVE MATERIALS QUICKER, AND BOILING WATER DOES NOT REMOVE THE TOXIN.

FLUSH WATER LINES FOR 30 SECONDS TO 2 MINUTES IF THE TAP HAS SAT UNUSED FOR SEVERAL HOURS.

TIME MAY VARY DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE SERVICE LINE AND THE DISTANCE FROM THE WATER MAIN TO YOUR HOME.



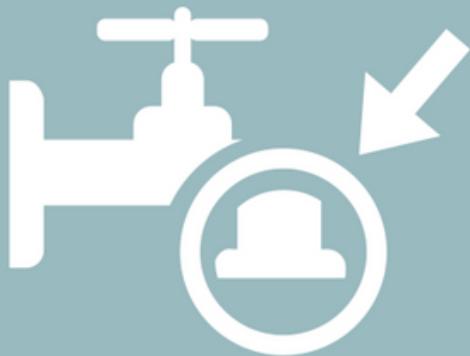


FILTER WATER WITH AN NSF-53 CERTIFIED WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM.

A FILTER WILL REMOVE ANY LEAD THAT MAY HAVE ENTERED YOUR WATER SUPPLY FROM THE SERVICE LINE, INDOOR PLUMBING, OR OTHER FIXTURES. THE FILTER SHOULD EITHER ACT AS A PITCHER OR ATTACH DIRECTLY TO THE FAUCET.

TEST TAP WATER FOR THE PRESENCE OF LEAD.

RESIDENTS MAY CHOOSE TO HAVE THEIR WATER TESTED IF CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF LEAD. FOR A LIST OF CERTIFIED LABORATORIES IN TEXAS, VISIT THE [TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY](#).



CLEAN FAUCET AERATORS EVERY SIX MONTHS TO PREVENT BUILDUP.

SMALL PARTICLES MAY STICK TO THE AERATOR SCREEN AND, IN SOME CASES, RELEASE LEAD INTO THE WATER. CLICK [HERE](#) FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO CLEAN FAUCET AERATORS FROM THE AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION.

REPLACE PRE-2014 FIXTURES WITH NEW "LEAD-FREE" OPTIONS.

FIXTURES PRODUCED AFTER 2014 MUST BE "LEAD-FREE," CONTAINING LESS THAN 0.25% OF LEAD IN ANY AREA THAT COMES INTO CONTACT WITH THE WATER SUPPLY.





Lead and Copper Rule Revision

Tactic #1.3: City Matters Article

TAKING INVENTORY: LEAD AND COPPER PIPES

The League City Public Works Department is currently in the process of inventorying all the water service lines within League City and verifying what material they're made of, to comply with new federal guidelines established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Why the new guidelines?

In 1991, the original Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) was introduced to reduce copper and lead levels present in tap water. However, the EPA revised the rule in 2021 to focus on enforcing new, more stringent standards to eliminate the potential for the presence of lead in drinking water. The new guidelines are a step toward improving public health nationwide.

What are the requirements?

Across the United States, cities are required to **identify** and eventually **replace** lead service lines with safer, non-lead materials. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which oversees public drinking water in Texas, is requiring community public water systems to create an inventory of the water line materials on both the utility AND private side of the water meter. All service line materials must be inventoried by October 16, 2024.

YOUR WATER IS SAFE



Currently, no lead service lines have been identified by the Public Works Department. League City is in full compliance with all federal, state, and industry guidelines, including those set for lead and copper levels in tap water. Our water distribution system is routinely monitored and treated specifically to prevent internal corrosion and lead leaching. Additionally, over 1,200 regulatory compliance samples are collected each year to ensure the overall quality of League City's drinking water. The Lead and Copper Rule Revision is a requirement for every city in the U.S. and is not a reflection of the water quality of any one municipality.

Check out League City's most recent drinking water quality report for more information about your drinking water.

Scan for the Drinking
Water Quality Report



VISIT LEAGUECITY.COM/LEAD FOR MORE DETAILS & RESOURCES



“While we haven’t yet identified any lead service lines in our community, League City is committed to the safety of residents, and is taking all necessary steps to finish confirming—with certainty—all service line materials within our water distribution system. The confirmed inventory provides information needed for future planning and funding options to address potential remediation of lead service lines, if any are found.”

—Jody Hooks, Director of Public Works

“It is my hope that League City residents understand that the ongoing Lead and Copper Rule Revision activity is not an imposition, but a necessary precaution to ensure the safety of our drinking water supply.”

—Tommy Arredondo, Public Works Utility Manager



What is League City doing to meet the new requirements?

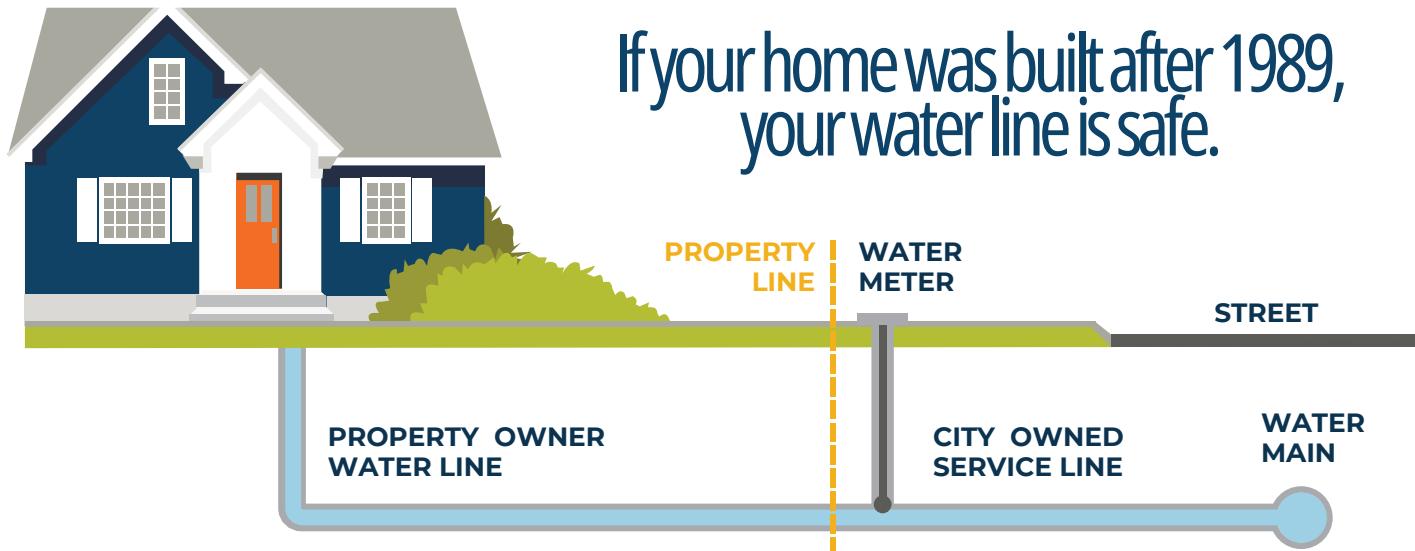
League City's Public Works Department began identifying service line materials earlier this year. At this time, **officials have verified that almost two-thirds of all service lines in League City are lead free because they were built or installed after January 1, 1989**—when lead was effectively banned from use in public water systems and household plumbing. Public Works crews will continue this process until all utility-side water lines have been inventoried. Utility-side water lines include all the lines that run from the water main in the street to the meter box at a residential or commercial unit.



League City Public Works staff inspects water line material.

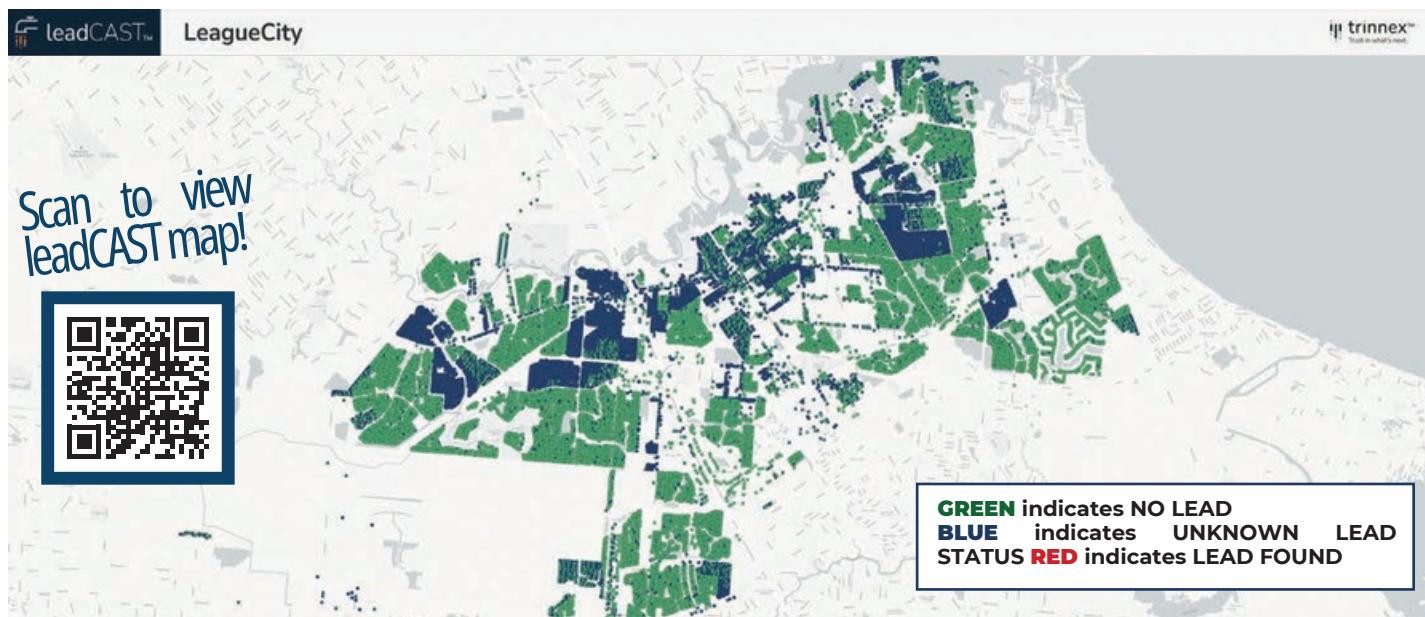
Are residential water lines safe?

If you own a home built after 1989, your water line is safe. If you own a home built before 1989, you are advised to check the City's online inventory map, which can be found at leaguecity.com/lead, for your current service line status. If your status shows "unknown," you will need to perform a simple inspection of your service line materials and report the results to our online inventory. A homeowner's service line runs from the meter box to the home and is the responsibility of the homeowner. Homes built before 1965 are at the highest risk. Most cities stopped using lead service lines in the 1960s.



leadCAST Customer Portal

League City's leadCAST interactive map is populated with the latest data regarding the status of water line materials. If your home was built before 1989, visit leaguecity.com/lead and enter your address into the inventory map to check your status.





Lead and Copper Rule Revision

Tactic #1.4: Media Pitch

CI Morning Impact

BECAUSE
“NAILING IT”
ISN’T ALWAYS
A GOOD
THING.



From coughs and colds to stitches, x-rays, sprains and strains, Next Level Urgent Care is more affordable and convenient.

next level
URGENT CARE

[Find Locations](#)

Good morning, Bay Area!

Today's weather ☀ High 99, Low 80

TOP STORY

League City officials inventorying all pipes for lead, copper



League City officials are in the midst of the largest lead and copper pipe-related project they've ever taken on, and it's one every other city in the U.S. also has to complete.

The context: In December 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released new regulations related to lead and copper pipes. By October 2024, every city in the country is required to inventory all service lines in the city.

Inventory requirements: To inventory pipes, city officials have to look through paperwork including building permits, inspections and historical records to determine exactly what each pipe is made of. The city has hired a consultant, CDM Smith, to help with the process, officials said.

How it affects you: The city is required to check every pipe from the water main to each water meter. However, pipes from the water meter to the point of entry to the building are residents' responsibility.

[Here's what else you need to know.](#)

Trending now

DEVELOPMENT[Elon Musk announces Tesla HQ will remain...](#)**DEVELOPMENT**[165 acres purchased for Harris County Fair...](#)**IMPACTS**[Kroger planning to close store in North...](#)**BUSINESS**[Target opens larger store concept in Katy](#)**GOVERNMENT**[Texas extends emergency SNAP benefits for final...](#)**IMPACTS**[The Nest Diner now o Barker...](#)

HOUSTON / BAY AREA / GOVERNMENT

League City officials inventorying all pipes for lead, copper

By [Jake Magee](#) | 4:11 PM Jul 13, 2023 CDT
Updated 4:11 PM Jul 13, 2023 CDT*League City workers in mid-July visited multifamily complexes to determine what their pipes were made of. (Courtesy city of League City)*

League City officials are in the midst of the largest lead and copper pipe-related project they've ever taken on, and it's one every other city in the U.S. also has to complete.

In December 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released [new regulations](#) related to lead and copper pipes. By October 2024, every city in the country is required to [inventory all service lines](#) in the city.

"It's a massive undertaking," Public Works Director Jody Hooks said of the work the city must complete in just over a year.

If any contain lead or copper, they will have to eventually be replaced. How that work will be funded is still a bridge the city has to cross, Hooks said.

The [Texas Water Development Board](#) has made available \$213 million for grants related to replacing lead and copper pipes. It's most likely this money will go to less affluent communities first, but it's possible League City could receive some of the money, depending on how much lead and copper is found in the city's pipes, officials said.

Inventory requirements

To inventory pipes, city officials have to look through paperwork including building permits, inspections and historical records to determine exactly what each pipe is made of. The city has hired a consultant, CDM Smith, to help with the process, officials said.

Confirmation will also require plenty of "boots on the ground," with crews going to certain properties to confirm unknowns, Hook said.

For instance, as of mid-July, [League City](#) crews were visiting and investigating 27 multifamily complexes that could have lead and copper pipes. While League City is a relatively new city with plenty of new construction that doesn't include dangerous materials in pipes, some areas of the city, such as the historic district, are more at risk of having lead and copper pipes, Hooks said.



Fortunately, for the last eight to 10 years, League City has had an aggressive waterline replacement program, which has given the city a head start. The city is relatively young, too, which means there's less likelihood of finding dangerous pipes.

"We're pretty confident we're not going to find much," Hooks said.

In fact, almost two-thirds of city and private service lines have been cleared because they were developed after 1989, when the state of Texas banned the use of lead pipes in water lines. Homes built before 1989 have a higher risk of having lead materials present in the line from the water meter to the home, said Sarah Greer Osborne, director of communications and community engagement.

"We're in good shape compared to other cities," she said.

Help from residents

The work will require residents' participation as well.

The city is required to check every pipe from the water main to each water meter. However, pipes from the water meter to the point of entry to the building are residents' responsibility.

City officials are working on outreach programs, flyers, social media posts and a website to educate residents of what will be required and how to inventory their service lines. Those materials will begin circulating later this summer.

Regardless, city officials ensured the city's drinking water is safe. The city's tap water is in full compliance with all federal, state and other guidelines.

"By conducting this citywide inventory, we are not only following the new EPA guidelines, but we will be able to guarantee the identification and removal of all potential lead service lines in our city," Osborne said.

While the EPA's new regulations were released in December 2021, many questions remained as to what exactly would be required of cities. The city did not receive guidance until October 2022, which is why League City officials did not begin inventorying the city's pipes until summer 2023, officials said.

By [Jake Magee](#) 
Editor, Bay Area & Pearland/Friendswood

Jake has been a print journalist for several years, covering numerous beats including city government, education, business and more. Starting off at a daily newspaper in southern Wisconsin, Magee covered two small cities before being promoted to covering city government in the heart of newspaper's coverage area. He moved to Houston in mid-2018 to be the editor for and launch the Bay Area edition of *Community Impact Newspaper*. Today, he covers everything from aerospace to transportation to flood mitigation.



Thank you for reading **Community Impact**





Additional Work

Print Media: Magazine Article

MEET THE NEW PIO

No stranger to a challenge, Officer Jose Ortega has spent the last 12 years working for the League City Police Department. During that time, he has held multiple positions, including patrol officer, honor guard member, hostage negotiator, and dispatch assistant. Now, Ortega takes on a new venture as he steps into his roles and responsibilities as Public Information Officer.

Officer Ortega first moved to League City in 2011 to pursue a career in law enforcement. After leaving his hometown in Victoria, Texas—where he previously worked as a youth minister—Ortega was hired as a cadet by the League City Police Department and earned his peace officer license shortly thereafter. “League City is definitely a place that I’ve enjoyed calling my home,” said Ortega. “I like that no day is the same. You don’t know what’s going to happen, or what you’re going to come across.”

As a member of LCPD, Officer Ortega has learned how to help the community through his role as a public servant. However, off-duty is where he’s had some unlikely training. Officer Ortega’s son, Joey, was born prematurely with Down syndrome and later diagnosed with leukemia. One of the many lessons he’s learned from Joey’s experience is the importance of compassion. “As a police officer, we often come in at people’s worst moments, but we try to understand what got them to that moment,” he said.

Now, as Public Information Officer for LCPD, Officer Ortega plans to use his background with the Police Department to showcase its dedication to maintaining the safety of residents and visitors alike. Additionally, he hopes to highlight the department as a resource for League City residents through community outreach.

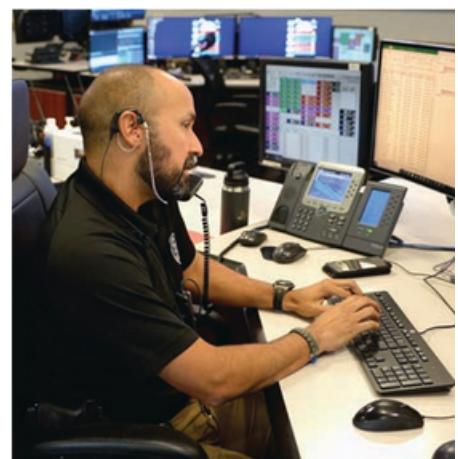
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“As a police officer, we often come in at people’s worst moments, but we try to understand what got them to that moment.”

– Officer Jose Ortega



Scan QR code to watch an interview with Officer Ortega!





Additional Work

Electronic Media: Website Article

[News Flash Home](#)

The original item was published from 5/23/2023 2:12:00 PM to 5/27/2023 11:05:10 PM.

[2022 - Home - Spotlights](#)

Posted on: May 23, 2023

[ARCHIVED] National EMS Provider Week

Join League City this week, May 21-27, in celebrating the 49th annual National EMS Week as we recognize the hard work and dedication of our city's EMS professionals. League City's EMS department is committed to improving the quality of life for all citizens by delivering excellent care for the health and safety of our community. National EMS Week is a great time to show your appreciation for the service and sacrifice of our local EMS workforce.



With a fleet of four ambulances spread across the city – two on each side of town – and an average response time of about eight minutes, League City's EMS team is ready to handle any emergency. Additionally, all ambulances are Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) capable and staff one paramedic. Inside each MICU, you will find several tools necessary to assist EMS efforts. To learn more, watch the video below.

National EMS Week 2023



Become Part of the Team

Are you interested in joining League City's team of EMS professionals? The EMS Division is looking to hire full-time Paramedics as part of its award-winning department. Primary responsibilities include providing immediate response to 911 calls for League City and surrounding communities, evaluating the nature of an emergency setting, and providing medical care for all citizens. For more information, [click here](#).

CPR Classes

The commitment of our League City EMS team extends past the line of service by providing education and outreach programs for the community including local CPR classes. These classes are held on the third Saturday of each month beginning at 9 a.m. at the EMS East Station, 260 S. Egret Bay Blvd. To register, please call 281-554-1207.