

## Water and Sanitation in the News

### Another pipe burst leads to water shortages in Seshego

Residents of some parts of Seshego zone 3 and 4 in Polokwane are experiencing water shortages following another pipe burst in the area.

According to the Polokwane municipality a maintenance team is on site and repairs are underway. It is however difficult to estimate the specific time of when the work will be completed. "Priority is however given to the site with the intention of finishing repairs as soon as possible to lessen the inconvenience on affected areas," says municipal spokesperson Tidimalo Chuene.

In the meantime the affected areas will be supplied temporary relief through water tankers which are moving between the affected areas and Seshego Hostel and Municipal Offices at Zone 3. The municipality has urged residents to use water sparingly, while repairs are underway. Water consumption should be limited to immediate household needs and avoid irrigation of gardens, filling swimming pools and washing cars.

Polokwane is a water scarce area and the municipality will continue to take a strong stance against those who continue to waste water because they can afford the surcharges by instituting on the spot fines and closing off supply to those who will be found watering their gardens.

**Low water levels in the Polokwane Municipality have been an ongoing problem and reports of water shortages in the city have been appearing in the news since 2011. In the past the municipality has attributed the low water levels to the increased population growth as well as households using more water for their gardens.**

Source: [Infrastructurenews.co.za](http://Infrastructurenews.co.za), 15 September 2015 & 6 November 2015

## Preventative Maintenance Principles & Guidelines: Week 5

### General Maintenance Guidelines

Numerous water and waste water treatment works and infrastructure (including reservoirs, pump stations, distribution network pipes, etc.) are much more than 20 years old. Consequently, most supplier's guarantees have expired, manuals are lost, and standard operating procedures are not in place, etc.

It is, however, important to start somewhere (with maintenance procedures), as all old equipment currently in use are still very critical to the delivery of sufficient quality & quantity drinking and treated waste water. In such cases, general maintenance guidelines should at least be applied.

For instance, some general guidelines obtained from assessing more than 50 municipalities and more than 200 WTW (Water Treatment Works) and WWTW (Waste Water Treatment Works), regarding bearings are:

### Bearings



#### Bearings - Monthly

- Clean thoroughly
- Check for excessive vibration, noise & temperature
- Check for sufficient lubrication
- Examine for any mechanical damage or corrosion
- Remove corrosion & paint

#### Bearings – Six Monthly (Depending on usage)

- Examine bearings - if rough replace; alternatively clean & re-grease
- Grease all grease points

Source: [Outcomes from Advanced Technical Process Controllers' Workshops 2011 & 2015](#)

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