

## Is There a Time Bomb Ticking in Your Community?



They're like ticking time bombs and they're all over our state. For decades, many wastewater utilities throughout Florida have ignored slowly deteriorating sewage collection force mains with an out-of-sight, out-of-mind attitude. And now payment is coming due in the most extreme manner.

Florida newspapers and ecology-related social media sites have been buzzing with news of one of the largest sewage spills in the state's history. After six sewer main breaks in the month of December, nearly 127 million gallons of raw sewage – enough to fill 192 Olympic-sized pools – flowed into the lawns, parks and waterways of one of Florida's highest profile communities.

For city officials, it's the stuff of nightmares. Finger-pointing and accusations are flying as residents speak of dangerously unhealthy conditions and eye-watering odors. Officials advise homeowners to keep spray bottles with bleach and water solutions near their front doors so that shoes can be cleaned before entering their houses!

This catastrophe is generating so much attention because of the volume of the spills and the high name recognition of the municipality. But the most frightening aspect of the disaster is the fact that communities all over Florida and in many states are dealing with similar problems.

Anyone who is involved in the industry is familiar with a practice that goes on at many government utilities. City or county officials redirect revenues generated from water and sewer utilities services and, instead of using them to help maintain 40 and 50 year-old infrastructure components that no one sees, they're used to fund high profile projects like shining new city centers or parks, or as a means to increase salaries without resorting to the taboo of increased taxes. Private utilities, whose revenues are not shared for non-utility purposes, rarely suffer from these maintenance deficiencies.

Sewer force main replacement is an expensive and disruptive undertaking that, under the most ideal conditions, should be addressed as part of a regular, maintenance program. Skyrocketing populations burden collection mains to levels that were never anticipated. Soaring main pressures must be kept below a critical level so that a utility can conduct the replacement procedure in a controlled atmosphere. But once an aging force main explodes, all options are lost.

Data Flow Systems' Symphony™ - Harmonious Pump and Flow Management - is a patented system for relieving many typical wastewater collection problems. With nearly 40 years in the water and wastewater business, DFS provides precious time to utility personnel who realize their debilitated systems need to be replaced.

By using SCADA to coordinate the system-wide operation of lift stations, we can significantly reduce pressures – the curse of aging collection systems - in crumbling sewage mains. With Symphony, the task of replacing force mains can be conducted in a disciplined, well-planned manner.

There are many other benefits provided by Symphony, whether a collection system is overtaxed or not. Reduced pressure means lower power expenses, fewer pump cycles and extended life for pumps and mains. Symphony can also equalize flows into a WWTP, combating daily peak flow problems.

There is no magical cure for an already weakened force main, and nothing can change the fact that they will eventually fail. But by controlling pressures in dangerously fragile lines, Symphony slows the clock on the ticking time bomb and reduces the likelihood of a catastrophic failure.



*Data Flow Systems*  
DATAFLOWSYS.COM 321-259-5009

Forget the big, up-front capital expenditure. Ask us about SAAS: SCADA as a Service.