

Norfolk
Department
of Utilities

Monthly
Report



At Work

Vol. 9, Issue 3

www.norfolk.gov/utilities

December 2008

Utilities Assists Search and Rescue Team with Trench Rescue Training



From November 17-21, 2008, Moores Bridges Water Treatment Plant hosted the 2008 Virginia Task Force Two Urban Search & Rescue Team's Trench Collapse Rescue Technician Training.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, from 1992-2002, 384 construction workers were killed by trenching-related injuries in the United States; 71 percent of those fatalities were a result of a trench cave-in.

Todd Cannon, Norfolk Fire-Rescue Battalion Chief, stated, "The opportunity to train at Moores Bridges gave us a chance to provide advanced trench rescue training to our rescue specialists. The site was ideal and enabled us make rescues in complex trench events such as angled and deep trenches over 14 feet deep. These are extremely challenging for us, so the training was very beneficial."

Trench collapse training is mandated for rescue specialists on federal rescue teams. Virginia Task Force Two is one of two federal rescue teams based in the state of Virginia and is comprised of team members from municipalities throughout Hampton Roads, along with the Navy Mid-Atlantic Regional Fire Rescue, and many civilian members. Norfolk Fire and Rescue has 20 members on the team.

Rick Saul, Water Production Manager, stated, "Moores Bridges was honored to host the trench collapse rescue training. The Department of Utilities is always excited to take part in any effort to expand the knowledge of Norfolk's rescue personnel. This training is just another example of city departments working together to create a safer Norfolk."

Utilities CIP Update

The Department of Utilities is continuing construction of a Pump Station and related water and sewer mains in the Freemason area. This \$3.9 million project began in May 2008 and is expected to be completed by Summer 2009. Existing water and sewer mains were more than 100 years old and in generally poor condition. The new pump station, and water and sewer mains will provide more reliable water service, increase the flow capacity of the sanitary sewer, and provide for less frequent maintenance. This project has resulted in several temporary street closures. Alternate routes have been established to assist residents and businesses with navigating through this area. Utilities employees are in regular communication with Freemason area businesses and residents keeping them updated on construction activities in an effort to minimize construction related inconveniences. Weekly open house meetings are held every Monday at 4 pm at the Downtown Norfolk Council office. Any interested party is welcome to attend. The Downtown Norfolk Council noted in a recent newsletter that the meetings are “an excellent communications model, successfully providing face-to-face weekly updates on the utility construction work in Freemason Harbor” as well as “informal and an excellent opportunity for our downtown community.” You can find more information on this project and the open house meetings by visiting www.norfolk.gov/Utilities/engineer/freemason.asp, or by emailing freemasonproject@norfolk.gov. The Department of Utilities would like to remind everyone of how vital our Freemason area businesses are to Norfolk. We encourage you to excuse our construction and continue to shop and dine in the Freemason area.



**Businesses
Open.**

**All
Freemason
Area
Businesses
Are
Open**

DOWNTOWN NORFOLK
THE MOMENTUM IS BUILDING.
downtownnorfolk.org



Before you lather up, install a low-flow showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save your family more than 500 gallons a week.