

Town of Hampton



Press Release - UPDATE

5 February 2016

Hampton Force Main Break Official Update

Hampton, NH – The Town of Hampton continues to monitor and test for bacteria in the Tide Mill Creek Salt Marsh Area and along Hampton Beach due to the sewer force main failure located between the Church Street Pump Station and the Hampton Waste Water Facility that occurred on February 2, 2016. Working with NHDES, testing has occurred at various locations throughout the watershed with specific testing for bacteria along Hampton Beach.

With the Penguin Plunge occurring this weekend, the safety of all our residents, pets, visitors, spectators and participants has and continues to be a focal concern. State Standards have been established that activate beach advisories when there is a possible presence of certain bacteria (Enterococci) that exceed threshold values. NHDES results from testing on February 3rd and February 4th indicate 10 MPN/100ml or less. These results are well within normal range for coastal beaches. According to the NHDES Beach Inspection program, "At a coastal beach, an advisory is posted if either two or more samples taken at a beach exceed the state standard of 104 counts of Enterococci per 100 ml of water OR when one sample exceeds 178 counts of Enterococci per 100 mL of water." The testing results compared to the state standard thresholds confirm that there is no danger of holding this event due to the failed force main.

Ongoing testing will continue as the Town obtains emergency permits to excavate the failed force main. It is the intent of the Town's project team to determine the cause of failure and propose solutions for remediation. We continue to work NHDES and other federal, state and local agencies.

The town is committed to providing additional updates as new information is received.

All inquiries, point of contact Town Manager's Office.