

Media Release

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Contact:

Dena Egenhoff (307) 637-6415



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The Super Bowl Flush?

CHEYENNE, WY – According to the Denver Water authorities, water usage increased about 26 million gallons of water, presumably in the bathroom, during the January 24, 2016 halftime game between the Broncos and the Patriots. Now that the Broncos are in the Super Bowl, will we see a “Super Bowl Flush” to the City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities’ water and wastewater systems? Will every bathroom in the Cheyenne service area, flush their toilets during the 30-minute halftime creating a spike in water demand and wastewater treatment needs?

To find out, I spoke with the City’s Water Reclamation Manager, Jim Hughes and Water Treatment Manager, Clint Bassett. Hughes and Bassett, reviewed historical records specifically during past three Super Bowls for changes to our treatment plants and discovered this surprising fact. Either hardly anyone is watching the Super Bowl in Cheyenne or the City has really robust water and wastewater treatment systems. Given the number of football flare found around the City, offices, and at friend’s homes, I’m compelled to think the latter; the Board of Public Utilities has an all-pro team of water and wastewater systems operators for Cheyenne’s water and wastewater systems.

Board of Public Utilities operators have a game plan to treat enough drinking water and capacity to treat the wastewater to meet Cheyenne’s demands. We send treated drinking water to underground and aboveground storage tanks to meet demand when water needs are greater. The tanks act like shock absorbers, allowing the City to withstand events like the Super Bowl flush or not to be blindsided by a quarter of a million people for Cheyenne Frontier Days. On the other end, past events like Frontier Days caused our Water Reclamation Operators to act as defensive linemen preparing weeks in advance for the onslaught of people’s used water. With invested upgrades to the Crow and Dry Creek Water Reclamation facilities, it can now tackle the water treatment usage without a delay in the game.

Despite the upgrades, the Water Reclamation facilities continue to get sacked by the overwhelming amount of trash heading down the City’s drains on any day. Get your game on Cheyenne by making sure you don’t fumble trash, wipes, feminine products, food, or grease down your drains. The only thing that should go down the drain is the losing team during the Super Bowl flush.

Dena Egenhoff
City of Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities
Water Conservation Manager and Public Relations Specialists
