



To: The News Editor

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PLEASE STORE SOME WATER - NWC

The National Water Commission (NWC) is urging its customers all across the island to develop and maintain the good habit of storing some water for use in the event of a disruption in the piped water supply or some other emergency.

While the NWC is working hard at improving the reliability of its piped water service, it is recognized that water systems are extremely vulnerable to a number of risks and may therefore be interrupted for any number of reasons ranging from flood rains, storms and hurricanes to broken mains, improvement work or even industrial unrest.

According to the NWC's Corporate Public Relations Department, the NWC is issuing this general reminder to its customers in the context of increased disruptive activity in sections of Kingston and St. Andrew under its 5-year-long Non Revenue Water Reduction Programme. Under this multi-billion dollar programme, the installation of hundreds of new data loggers and control valves, effecting of an aggressive active leak detection and repair regime as well as the establishment of new district metered areas (DMAs) and new pressure zones are all resulting in frequent service interruptions in parts of the city.

“Despite the NWC’s very best efforts, there will be occasional interruptions in the piped supply of water to our valued customers. For planned disruptions we will endeavour to forewarn our customers. However, emergency disruptions will also happen for which we have no advance warning and over which we have no control. For all those situations, it is important that customers have some water to tide them over until the piped service is restored,” says Corporate Public Relations Manager Charles Buchanan.

“In fact, the very improvement work itself will result in some unavoidable interruptions, unfortunately”, Buchanan says.

While water use varies based on personal usage habits, the NWC points to the international recommendation that persons store water to last 7 days or more (with a minimum of 1 gallon-of-water-per-person-per-day) for emergencies as a guide and says that any amount of water stored is always better than none at all.

According to Buchanan, given the risk of emergency service interruptions, it is in the interest of the customer to have some water stored at all times for use in the event of an interruption in this essential service for whatever reason.

Most persons assume that water storage requires that they install a storage tank on their roofs, however adequate water storage can also be achieved by simply washing and using 1 and 5 gallon bottles and other containers usually used around the house to store potable water with a tight cover. If stored in a dry, cool place outside of the reach of direct sunlight, this water can be kept for a very long time.