



## THE COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MICHAELS

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# Marengo Street Pump Station Fire Update

## December 14, 2023

On December 3, 2023, one of two of the Town's water treatment plants experienced a major fire making the facility inoperable. The cause of the fire is still being investigated by the Fire Marshall but does not appear to be arson related.

Fortunately, the Town has plenty of water capacity to serve the community in the coming months when demand is low during winter and early spring. Nonetheless, with only a single, operable water treatment plant on-line there is some potential of temporary domestic water service interruptions.

Please be assured that Town Staff has quickly implemented precautionary and proactive measures to minimize any interruptions in water service to our community. To this end, we have implemented the following measures over the past several days:

- ❖ Hosted a meeting with Talbot County Emergency Services and other agencies to alert them of the issue.
- ❖ Coordinated with Town engineers and water treatment equipment suppliers to review all treatment processes in the current operable water plant along with securing back-up equipment if a mechanical failure were to occur.
- ❖ Worked with St. Michaels Fire Department to establish protocols for the use of alternative water sources if a major fire were to occur.
- ❖ As lead time for replacement of pump and electronic equipment for the Marengo Station is many months out, the Town is coordinating efforts with our engineers in the development of a temporary water treatment system to be located at the Marengo site creating critical water system redundancy and capacity that will be needed in the coming months. Engineers have also started to order replacement equipment for the Marengo site.
- ❖ Costs associated with this fire will be paid for by the Town's insurance carrier minimizing any use of local tax dollars.

With recent emergency planning efforts well underway, the Town is in a much better position than last week. Although there is no mandatory water conservation order at this time, we would appreciate any efforts from the community to voluntarily conserve water in the coming months.

We are optimistic this will be resolved without interruptions in water service. Please be rest-assured that the Town Commission and Staff are working diligently to resolve this issue as quickly as possible. We will keep the community informed with future Constant Contact communications and through updates to our website at [www.stmichaelsmd.gov](http://www.stmichaelsmd.gov). If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Administrator, Rob Straebel, at 410-745-9535.