

# The Meter Setter



## TEAMWORK RESTORES SERVICE

This past spring Paducah Water Works (PWW), Paducah, Kentucky, awoke around 3:00 a.m. to a major break on a 24" cast iron water transmission line. What a way to start your Monday! The line was beneath a major highway in Paducah and affected traffic as well as water service.

A section of 24" cast iron pipe, in service for about 75 years, had split its entire length. The staff of PWW realized the only approach to repairing the line was to remove the entire length of damaged pipe and part of the adjoining pipe. To further complicate the repair, a parallel 6" water line was close to the 24" main.

Field expediency – doing what you can with whatever material you have to satisfy an emergency – became the order of the day (and night). Knowing it would not be the best solution, PWW used a 24" diameter repair clamp to make a temporary connection. By 1:30 Tuesday morning the water was back on, but in spite of PWW's best efforts with available parts, deflection at the pipe ends allowed continued leakage. They realized a permanent fix would require more than a repair clamp. That's when PWW turned to Ford Meter Box's District Manager for Kentucky, Dave Gidley, for his expertise.

Upon learning about this large main break, Dave immediately teamed up with our local Ford distributor, Construction Site Services, and the Ford Meter Box engineering and customer service departments in Pell City, Alabama. Determined to find a solution, numerous phone calls were made and a repair plan was developed.

Early Wednesday, Barry Bolin and Jimmy Grimm from PWW drove to Ford's facility in Pell City. Parts for the permanent repair were picked up, as well as safety stock for future needs. They returned to Paducah and repaired the water line late that evening, restoring water service and traffic flow.

Remember, when you have a problem that needs to be solved quickly, contact your local Ford distributor or The Ford Meter Box Company. We will be there to assist you with your water works needs by providing professional service and the highest quality products.



*A very rare full-length break of a 24" water main.*



*Jimmy Grimm (left) and Barry Bolin from PWW are shown at the Ford Pipe Products Division in Pell City, Alabama, with products destined to repair the 24" transmission main.*



*The fix is complete with couplings and new pipe.*



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