



### WHAT CAN GO WRONG AND WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENT EFFECTS ?

- 💧 **Breaks and bursts** of the pipes can lead to a loss of water, as well as the possibility of an increase in turbidity.
- 💧 **Infiltration and seepage** from contaminated sources, can lead to deterioration in water quality.
- 💧 **Contamination during repair** work to pipes will lead to contamination of the pipeline.

### HOW WILL YOU KNOW?

- 💧 **Physical inspection** will reveal a break or burst through an apparent water leak.
- 💧 **Regular sampling** will be necessary to detect any deterioration in the water quality in the case of possible infiltration and seepage
- 💧 When the water quality deteriorates, **full analyses** will be necessary to establish the fitness for water use
- 💧 After pipe repairs **discoloured water** may be noticeable for a short time until it has been purged from the pipeline.

### WHAT TO DO?

- 💧 Establish and rectify the leak immediately.
- 💧 Supply an interim source of water in the case of infiltration and contamination of the water source. Water in the yellow class can be used with caution, while water in the red class (see fact sheet on water classification) should only be used for a short period in emergency situations.
- 💧 After repairs the pipeline should be disinfected. Users should be warned as the disinfectant may result in taste and odour, as well as discolouration.

### WHY IS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE PIPE NETWORK IMPORTANT?

- 💧 It is important to maintain these pipe networks, since they are the connection between the reservoir and the water user.
- 💧 The Water Services Provider is responsible for the maintenance of the pipe network system.

REFERENCES: DWAF (2002). Quality of domestic water supplies. Volume 5: Management Guide. WRC No. TT 162/01, pp. 34 and 35