

# Arizona Department of Water Resources

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## NEWS RELEASE



Janet Napolitano,  
Governor

Herb Guenther,  
Director

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Public Information Office  
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### **ADWR receives \$50,000 grant to "Patch the Pipe"**

The Arizona Department of Water Resources is the recipient of a \$50,000 federal water conservation grant to help track down and fix leaky pipes in local water systems, Director Herb Guenther announced today.

ADWR has named the program "Patch the Pipe." The program is expected to be operating by the end of the year.

Most water utility companies report a 10-20% in loss and unaccounted-for water in their annual system accounting. The main source of such losses is leaks or, sometimes, theft. Undetected leaks, even small ones, can amount to large quantities of lost water.

With funding from the Phoenix Area Office Water Conservation Field Service Program of the Bureau of Reclamation, ADWR will work with local water utilities in the Salt River Project and Central Arizona Project service areas to examine their systems for leaking pipes.

"People can be very careful with their water consumption, but if the water is leaking away into the ground before it gets to them, even the best conservation plans will not succeed," Guenther said.

Many of the best opportunities to conserve can be found through the reduction of outdoor water use and by employing the best available technologies, the director added.

This program will use digital leak-detection equipment to detect loss and unaccounted for water within a water utility's distribution network. Once leaks have been detected, it will be the utility company's responsibility to make the repairs. The ADWR Statewide Conservation Office will follow up with the company to make sure that the leak has been sealed and provide technical assistance as needed.

The leak-detection equipment has been put to successful use in Hilo, Hawaii, by Denver Water, and the cities of Albuquerque and El Paso, among others.



ADWR statewide conservation coordinator Marjie Risk said the agency will provide an equal match to the federal grant by contributing funding, staff and training. She described the procedure that technicians will follow in finding leaks:

Initially, magnetized remote leak sensors will be placed on pipe fittings at intervals of several hundred feet. These units transmit a leak status signal to a Patroller unit, which narrows down the location. The Noise Correlator then is used to pinpoint the leak in buried pipelines. Then, the individual utility will excavate and repair the leaking sections.

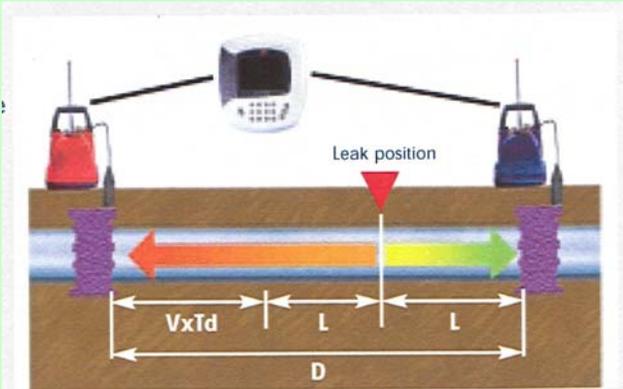
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**VISUAL DEMONSTRATIONS OF EQUIPMENT**



**Leak Detection System.** Magnetized Units transmit leak status signals to Patroller unit



Principle of correlation:  $L = \frac{1}{2} (D - (VxTd))$

**Digital Leak Noise Correlator.** Correlator Unit pinpoints leak location