

## Now You SINK Me, Now You Don't



Two giant sinkholes interrupted traffic on Florida's turnpike southbound lanes. According to Florida highway patrol, a broken water line caused the sinkholes near the northwest 199<sup>th</sup> street exit. Hundreds of drivers were trapped for hours creating a major traffic nightmare on the freeway until officials were able to close down the roads. The damage from the sinkhole spread across three lanes on the highway however; there were no reports of damage to vehicles or injuries. Despite the massive damage, crewmembers from the Florida Department of Transportation and Miami Dade County were able to repair the water line and fix the roads within twelve hours.

Miami Dade County water and sewer officials revealed that the 10-inch pipe that caused the leak was installed over fifty years ago in 1960. This is a serious concern for officials as well as, residence who use the turnpike daily because the pipe that broke was last evaluated within a year. The real concern according to the spokesperson of water and sewer department is that a pipe can be fine one day but the location, age, and additional pressure on the pipe are factors that contribute its deterioration. In this case, the sinkhole should be a call to actions for FDOT and water management officials to review the current procedures when evaluating pipes to ensure drivers safety.

<http://www.local10.com/news/local/miami/sinkhole-opens-up-on-busy-roadway-in-miami>

<http://miami.cbslocal.com/2016/08/27/sinkhole-leads-to-mess-on-turnpike-near-hard-rock-stadium/>

<http://wsvn.com/news/local/southbound-lanes-of-turnpike-shutdown-in-miami-gardens-due-to-sinkhole/>

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/miami-dade/article98341882.html>

<http://wlrn.org/post/turnpike-reopens-after-sinkholes-repaired>