

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

The new tower crane has been erected and is now ready to go. Traffic controls have been removed along SW Sacajawea Blvd. and Lewis and Clark Way, SW Sherwood Blvd. will remain closed until late this afternoon, so Parks can remove a dead tree near the construction site.

LIQUID NITROGEN

Managing the placement and curing of concrete at the Washington Park Reservoir Improvement Project is a delicate act, particularly during the warmer months. As concrete is “batched at the plant” and as it is placed and cures, its temperature heats up. During warm weather, it can heat to temperatures that cause thermal stresses and potential concrete damage. To reach the needed strength for the finished concrete, the heat levels need to be controlled to maintain the tolerances called for in the reservoir design.

To ensure the concrete does not overheat during the warmer months, the contractor will cool the concrete with liquid nitrogen. In the Reservoir 4 area, a liquid nitrogen tank and four bays are being temporarily installed. As concrete trucks enter the project site they will pull into one of the bays where the load will be injected and mixed with liquid nitrogen. Then the truck will move to the construction zone up in Reservoir 3 and the concrete will be pumped into the waiting forms. To see a video of this process, click [HERE](#).

Things to know about liquid nitrogen:

- Possible presence of fog: The boiling point of liquid nitrogen is -321 degrees Fahrenheit. When it hits air, it boils and chills the surrounding air, causing the humidity in the air to condense into fog. When this process is in operation neighbors may notice a fog in the area of Reservoir 4.
- Liquid nitrogen is cold enough to cause severe frostbite upon contact with living tissue. Workers will be wearing proper safety gear when injecting the nitrogen into the concrete trucks to help prevent contact or inhalation of the extremely cold vapor.
- A common use of liquid nitrogen is in the freezing and transport of food products.
- For more information on liquid nitrogen, click [HERE](#).

To see a map of the construction site, click [HERE](#).

To see the May 2019 updates with information and photos of work performed over the past month, click [HERE](#).

See how the elements of the new reservoir fit together within the footprint of the historic reservoir [HERE](#).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Go to www.portlandoregon.gov/water/wpreservoirs.

DID YOU KNOW?

The new reservoir will improve our ability to restore water service to customers west of the Willamette River after an earthquake or landslide, but emergency water storage is so important. Learn about how much water to store and how to store it, [HERE](#).