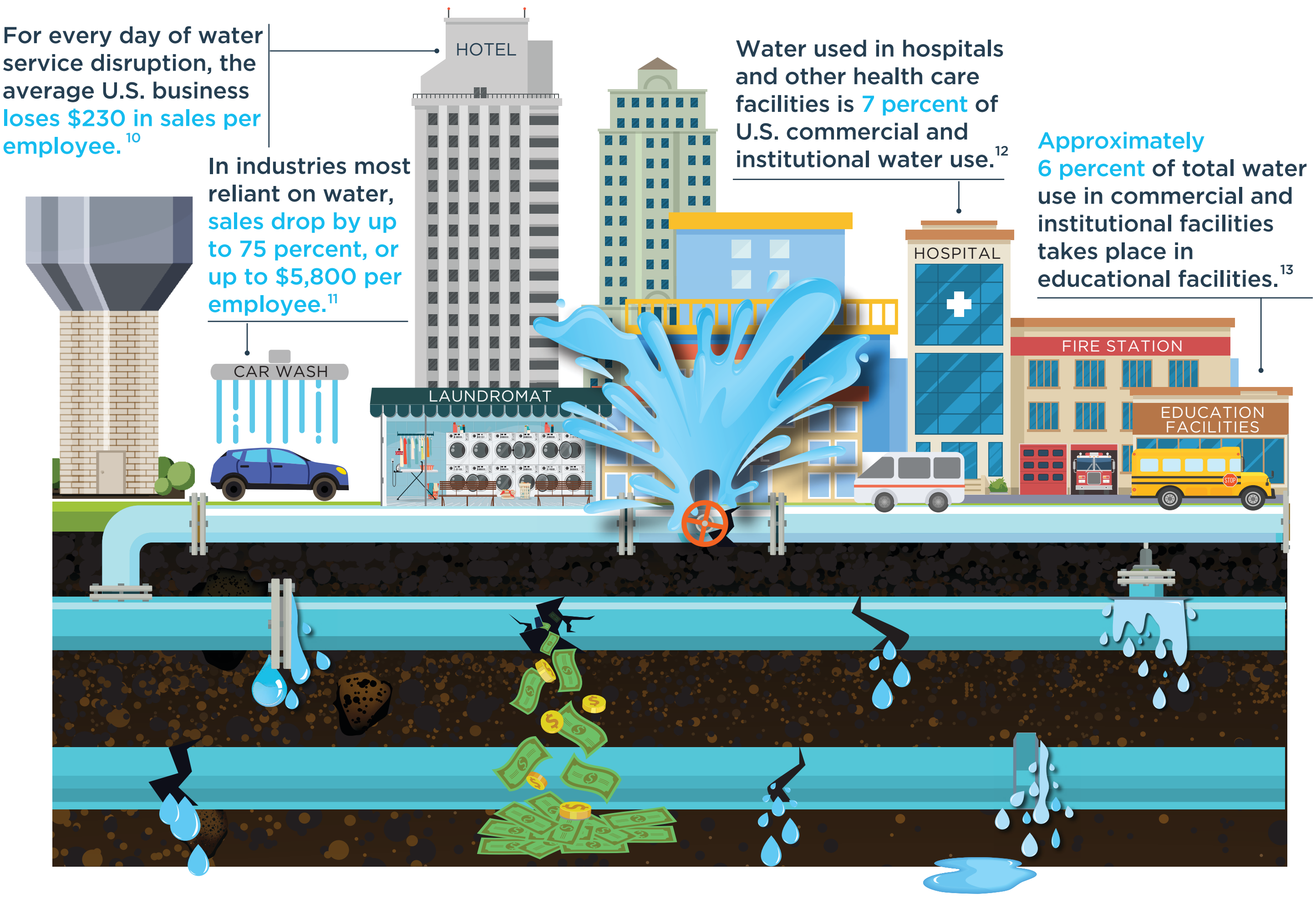
The Cost of Water Pipe Failure to Municipalities

Depending on its severity, a water main break can leave a community without water for hours or days. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), there are 260,000 water main breaks per year in the United States, wasting over two trillion gallons of treated drinking water. In the 2021 Infr[1]astructure Report Card, ASCE found that drinking water is delivered by 2.2 million miles of pipes that were laid in the early to mid-20th century. Water is a lifeline not for just clean drinking water but for the health and safety of our citizens. It is an[2] essential economic resource for many businesses. Many people also do not see the residual economic losses that result from failure. Many sectors depend on water, and a disruption of water and wastewater service, even for one day, can cost businesses significant revenue.

At a national level, a one-day disruption in water service represents an aggregate **daily loss of $43.5 billion in sales and $22.5 billion in GDP.**[8] To put this level of economic activity in context, **an eight-day national disruption in water service** would amount to a **1 percent loss in annual GDP**—putting roughly **1.9 million jobs at risk.**[9]

Industries that Rely On Reliable Water Delivery

Fire/Public Safety:	**3,000 gallons of water to put out an average home fire.**[3]
Hospitals:	**250 average gallons of water per bed.**[4]
Hotels/Motels:	**100 to 200 average gallons of water per day per customer.**[5]
Office Buildings:	**20 average gallons of water per day per customer.**[6]
Schools and Colleges:	**600 million to over 1 billion of gallons of water per year.**[7]



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