

Preventing Stormwater Pollution

What We Can Do

Employee Training
Recognizing and Reporting Illicit Discharges



Okaloosa County

Training Goals

- Understand the terms “stormwater” and “illicit discharge”
- Understand why these terms are important and why you should care
- Understand what you can do to help prevent stormwater pollution
- Understand how to recognize and report illicit discharges (pollution)



What is Stormwater?

- When it rains, water that does not soak into the ground becomes runoff
- This runoff can enter a storm sewer system which ends up in local streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes



Why is Stormwater Runoff Important?

- Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants
- Stormwater runoff is **NOT** treated before it is discharged into local streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes



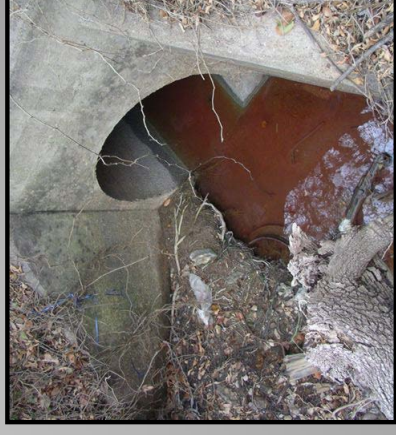
Lakeland, FL

What is an Illicit Discharge?

- Any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater
- Exceptions include:
 - Water line flushing
 - Runoff or return flow from landscape irrigation
 - Discharges from potable water sources
 - Diverted stream flows
 - Rising ground waters and springs
 - Uncontaminated ground water infiltration
 - Uncontaminated pumped ground water
 - Foundation and footing drains
 - Air conditioning condensation
 - Water from crawl space pumps
 - Individual residential vehicle washing
 - Flows from wetlands and riparian habitats
 - Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges
 - Street wash water
 - Discharges or flows from fire fighting activities
 - Etc.

Why are Illicit Discharges Important?

- Illicit discharges often include pathogens, nutrients, toxic pollutants, etc.
- Illicit discharges = pollution
- Anything that enters a storm sewer system flows untreated to a local waterway

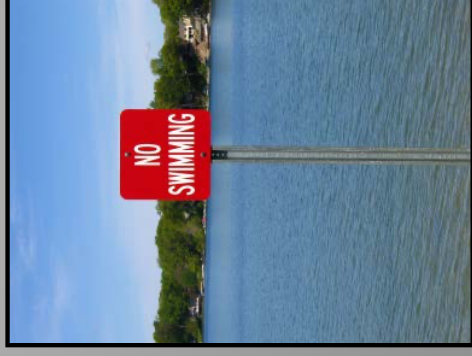


Irving



Why Should You Care?

- We use local waterways for swimming, fishing, boating, and as a source of drinking water
- A regulated MS4 is required to prevent pollutants from entering the storm sewer system



Wayne County, MI



What Can You Do?

- Employees can help prevent stormwater pollution by:
 - Preventing pollutants from being dumped or spilled into the storm sewer system (this includes driveways, sidewalks, streets, storm drains)
 - Reporting pollution or questionable discharges to the storm sewer system or local waterways



Preventing Pollution

- Store and handle materials safely
- Clean up spills properly
- Never dump or wash out items down or near a storm drain



Reporting Pollution

- If you see questionable discharges entering the storm sewer system or someone dumping something down the storm drain, report it



Grand Prairie



Montgomery County, MD

Examples of What to Report

Pollution Entering the Storm Sewer System

Arlington



Dirty water in the street

Tetra Tech



Wash out of solids/liquids

Tetra Tech



Unusually colored discharges

Tetra Tech



Liquids dumped down a storm drain

Leaks



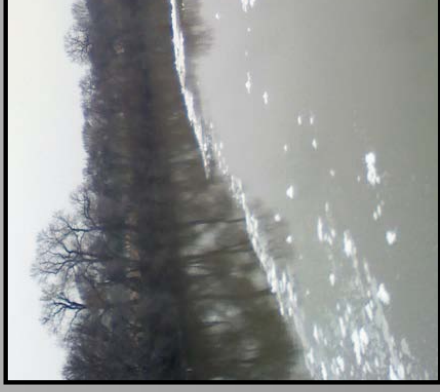
Tetra Tech

Solids blown or swept in the street or down a storm drain



Reporting Pollution

- If you see warning signs of pollution coming out of a pipe or in a local waterway, report it
- Warning signs may include the presence of unusual:
 - Color
 - Odor
 - Turbidity
 - Floatable liquids and solids
 - Etc.



Fort Worth



Tetra Tech

Examples of What to Report

Unusual Water Color



Fort Worth

Pea-green/
bright green



Milky white



Don Green, Franklin, TN

Tan to light
brown



Milky gray-black

Center for Watershed Protection



Dark red, purple, blue, black

Grand Prairie

Examples of What to Report

Unusual Odor

- Some odors are an immediate indicator of pollution
- Sewage, gasoline, and chemical odors should be reported

Odor	Causes
Rotten eggs/hydrogen sulfide	Raw sewage, decomposing organic matter, lack of oxygen
Sharp, pungent odor	Chemicals or pesticides
Gasoline, petroleum	Industrial discharge, illegal dumping of wastes, waste water

Examples of What to Report

Highly Turbid Water



Catawaba Riverkeeper

Construction site
discharge



Rachel Calabro, MA Dept of Env Protection

Discharge of rinse
from floor sanding



Rachel Calabro, MA Dept of Env Protection

Unknown brown
turbid discharge

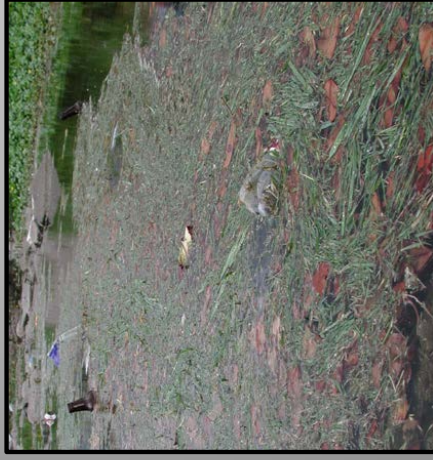


Center for Watershed Protection

Sewage
discharge

Examples of What to Report

Floatables in the Water



Leaves
and grass
clippings



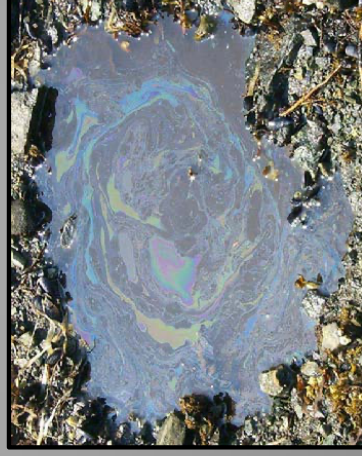
Trash and
debris

Sewage fungus



Wayne County, MI

Oil sheen



Jane Thomas, IAN Image Library

Suds



Center for Watershed Protection

How to Report

- Call 850-689-5772 or report online at <https://myokaloosa.com/form/report-illicit-discharge>
- Include the following information:
 - Specific location
 - Date and time
 - Description of the pollution
 - Description of the violator, e.g. license plate #, personal description (if applicable)
 - Your contact information
 - Email a picture if you can