SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW IDENTIFICATION AND DISCHARGE RESPONSE

WWW.UKY.ENV/STORMWATER

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO's) can threaten public health and the environment. Care should be taken to prevent sanitary sewer discharge from entering storm sewer systems. The University's MS4 Permit only allows clean water discharges into the stormwater system and requires that the University implements Best Management Practices to prevent the discharge of pollutants from campus. In the event of an SSO, procedures outlined in the SSO Response Plan should be followed.

DO

- ✓ Establish a control zone as soon as possible. Block off the affected area using caution tape, cones, and barricades.
- ✓ Put up temporary signs to warn the public of the overflow.
- ✓ Equip all responding personnel with the proper PPE (safety glasses, rubber gloves, reflective vests, rubber boots, rain suits, etc.) as needed.
- ✓ Stop the release, if safe and possible. Protect surface water and storm drain inlets if safe and possible.
- ✓ Collect release information for reporting purposes.
- ✓ Remove sewage and dribs from affected area using a vacuum or pump. Then dispose of material properly either in an operating portion of the collection system or via the local WWTP.
- ✓ Disinfect paved surfaces with a diluted bleach solution. Ensure that all wash water returns to the sanitary sewer or gets collected into a sealed container.
- ✓ Rake/remove solids prior to disinfecting impacted non-paved surfaces with hydrated lime.
- ✓ Follow the notification procedure:
  - o Notify supervisor (staff's responsibility), then notify manager (supervisor's responsibility), then notify EQM (manager's responsibility)
  - o Contact Environmental Quality Management (EQM):
    - Phone: (859) 323-6280 (8am-5pm, M-F)
    - After hours/weekends: call 911 from a campus phone or (859) 257-UKPD (8573)
  - o Notify Supervisor/EQM immediately if the sewage release has entered the storm sewer system, as these releases require a more urgent response procedure.



Required Training: 1 per year

Relevant UK Departments:

- Environmental Quality Management
- Facilities Management
- Grounds
- Athletics
- Utilities and Energy Management
- Capital Project Management

DON'T

- ✗ Don't allow sewage to enter storm drains, waterways, or drainage ditches if possible.
- ✗ Don't assume the spill is contained without verifying the area, sewage can infiltrate drains quickly.
- ✗ Don't skip disinfecting non-paved areas, residual contamination can persist and spread pathogens.
- ✗ Don't dispose of vacuumed sewage or contaminated materials into storm drains, trash receptacles, or open ground.
- ✗ Don't overlook documentation, failure to record details of the release and response actions may violate reporting obligations.
- ✗ Don't delay cleanup measures once an overflow is suspected. Immediately create a control zone and begin the response procedure.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- All steps must be completed even if there is no waste material visible.
- Non-response personnel should avoid contact with the sanitary sewer backup.

ACTIVITY CHECKLIST

- ☐ Ensure the site was properly cleaned and disinfected.
- ☐ Ensure proper incident reporting and documentation took place.
- ☐ Ensure storm drains were properly protected, and no storm sewer contamination took place.