

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

Basics for UK Staff

The University of Kentucky's (University) main campus is located within Lexington in Fayette County, Kentucky. Although the Lexington – Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) has a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) Permit, the University is permitted separately with the Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW) under an individual MS4 permit. The University's MS4 Permit requires non-stormwater discharges to be eliminated or mitigated as soon as possible. This fact sheet summarizes the field screening procedures for University staff to follow to identify an illicit discharge and how to refer the incident to the proper department for elimination or mitigation.

What is an illicit discharge (ID)?

An ID is basically anything flowing in a storm sewer system that is not entirely made up of rainwater.

Sources of an ID include:

- ✗ Sediment/Erosion
- ✗ Oil/hydraulic fluid leaks
- ✗ Improper disposal of Floor Cleaners/Wax
- ✗ Grease traps/ Grease disposal container overflows
- ✗ Heating and Cooling Plant process water
- ✗ Dumpster seepage
- ✗ Dumping of liquids into storm drains
- ✗ Sanitary sewer overflows
- ✗ Vehicle and equipment washing near / over storm inlets



Exceptions that are allowed include:

- ✓ Water Line Flushing
- ✓ Uncontaminated Pumped Ground Water
- ✓ Footing Drains

What does an ID look like?

Just because you found a wet flow in the storm pipe, even though it has not rained in the last 72 hours, it may not necessarily be an ID. Here is a quick reference checklist to determine if you have found an ID:

- Does it have an odor?
- Does it have a color?
- Does it have a sheen?
- Does it have foam or floating / suspended debris?
- Is there discoloration and/or staining of the downstream pipe or ditch?
- Is there dead vegetation at the end of the storm pipe outfall?

Being familiar with the location of storm drains can make identification easier. A map of much of the main campus' storm sewer system is available on the Environmental Quality Management (EQM) website at <http://uky.edu/env/stormwater/maps>.

What do I do if I see an ID?

If you see an ID, the first thing to do is remember safety. Do not enter into any enclosed manhole or inlet structure. Do not attempt to sample the water without the proper equipment and personal protection, such as gloves and eye protection. It is recommended that you write down some basic information when observing an ID and then contact EQM.

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Reporting an ID:

To report an ID, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your Name and Department
- Location of ID
- Date & Time of observed incident
- Characteristics of the flow
- Suggestions on possible sources
- Any other comments

IDs should be reported as soon as possible to EQM. This can be done by utilizing the Report an Illicit Discharge button on the EQM [Illicit Discharge Webpage](#). You may also make a report by calling 859-323-6280 between 8 am – 5pm M-F. Report an ID after hours and on weekends to 911 (on-campus phones only) or 859-257-UKPD (8573).

University properties not located on the main campus but within Lexington-Fayette Co. (i.e., Coldstream Research Campus) are under the jurisdiction of the LFUCG MS4 Permit. If you discover an ID at these locations, contact EQM or LFUCG directly at the Division of Water Quality, 859-425-2400. You may also contact the Kentucky Division of Water at 502-564-3410.

Contact and Responsibilities

The University's MS4 Permit coordinator (Water Quality Compliance Manager) is on staff within EQM. EQM provides coordination with many University departments related to stormwater and serves as technical support regarding permit compliance. EQM screens the storm sewer system annually and is familiar with its function as well as those "acceptable" dry weather flows. In addition, EQM coordinates the storm drain marking program to educate the public about water pollution prevention. You may contact the Water Quality Compliance Manager at kevin.lewis@uky.edu or 859-257-0093.

Please visit the EQM [Illicit Discharge website](#) for more information regarding IDs including:

- **The complete list of exceptions**
- **The difference between discharges vs spills**
- **Photographic representations of the most common campus IDs**
- **The Illicit Discharge Reporting Tool**
- **Access to our Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Manual**
- **Mapping and Tracking of the most recent IDs reported**