

ACTION ITEM 7.8 – SEWER SYSTEM OVERFLOW EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM

ACTION ITEM

Maintain a local Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for responding to and reporting sanitary sewer overflows that complies with Georgia EPD and US EPA requirements.

OBJECTIVE

A sanitary sewer system overflow response program ensures a reliable process for responding to and reporting sanitary sewer overflows to protect human health and the environment. Maintaining a SOP will likely improve response time for responding to and reporting overflows or spills.

DESCRIPTION OF MEASURE

Local wastewater providers in the Metro Water District must maintain a written SOP for responding to and reporting sanitary sewer overflows or “spills.”

SPECIFIC SUB-TASKS

Sub-Task	Description
Review overflow response program	Ensure local response program complies with Federal and State requirements.
Add SOPs to ensure proper response to overflows	Develop and add SOPs as needed to ensure proper response to overflows.

The sanitary sewer overflow SOP needs to be in accordance with the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (391-3-6-.05) Emergency Actions. The sanitary sewer overflow SOP must include procedures that will be followed, to ensure expedient notification and response to spills, major spill, or overflows impacting or having the potential to impact the public, surface waters, ground surfaces, and structures. Common SOP provisions include:

- Procedures to ensure dispatch of personnel and equipment immediately to correct and repair conditions causing or contributing to overflows
- Procedures for investigating the causes of overflow events or spills
- Procedures for estimating spill quantities and areal extents
- Procedures for immediate Georgia EPD notification in the event a spill or major spill occurs
- Procedures for public notification in the event an overflow occurs
- Procedures for reporting spill or major spill to the local media (television, radio and print media)
- Procedures for limiting public access to areas affected by overflows

Responsible Party

Local Government

Local Wastewater Provider

Other: _____

In Coordination With

Site Plan Review Staff

Community Development/ Zoning

Local Stormwater Program

Local Water Providers

County Board of Health

Other: Georgia EPD

Section 7: COLLECTION SYSTEM INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE

- Procedures for reporting spill or major spill to local health departments immediately
- Procedures for City/County stormwater staff notification
- Procedure for immediately posting a notice as close as possible to where the spill or major spill occurred and where the spill or major spill entered State waters
- Procedure for publishing notice of major spill according to the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control
- Procedures for notifying downstream city, county and public agencies as required by the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control
- Training program to ensure personnel are adequately trained regarding the provisions and implementation of the SOP when overflows occur
- Procedures to minimize the volume of untreated wastewater flowing or transmitted to the portion of the sewer system impacted by overflow events
- Procedures for monitoring and sampling major spill-impacted waters immediately, as well as procedures for analyzing water samples impacted, or potentially impacted, by overflow events
- Procedures for reporting the results of the monitoring, sampling, and analysis of water samples, impacted or potentially impacted by overflows, to appropriate regulatory authorities

In order to integrate wastewater management with watershed management in the Metro Water District, wastewater providers should notify appropriate staff as soon as possible regarding any SSOs or spills that might affect surface waters or drinking water supplies both within and downstream of the local wastewater provider's jurisdiction.