Reporting SSOs – Spill Notification

Immediate notification and appropriate response are essential factors at minimizing the impacts of SSOs.

Regulated entities are required to submit Public Notices of Pollution for reportable releases. The preferred method for reporting is using the link provided below:

http://prodenv.dep.state.fl.us/DepPNP/user/pnpRequest

While the preferred method for reporting is to use the link above, you may also report via e-mail using the Pollution Notice Form. Additional information about Public Notice of Pollution is available at:

https://floridadep.gov/sec/sec/forms/pollution-notice-form

In addition, owners or operators of satellite collection systems are required to report abnormal events to DEP in accordance with Rule 62-604.550, F.A.C.

For unauthorized spills of wastewater in excess of 1000 gallons per incident, or where information indicates that public health or the environment may be endangered, oral reports shall be provided to the State Watch Office toll-free, 24-hour hotline as soon as practical, but no later than 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

State Watch Office
1-800-320-0519

Unauthorized releases or spills of less than 1000 gallons per incident are to be reported orally to DEP’s regulatory districts within 24 hours from the time the permittee or other designee becomes aware of the circumstances. DEP’s Emergency Response Phone Numbers are located at the back of this document.

DEP Emergency Response Phone Numbers

Central District – Orlando
Northeast District – Jacksonville
Northwest District – Pensacola
Panama City Branch Office
Tallahassee Branch Office
South District – Ft. Myers
Marathon Branch Office
Southwest District – West Palm Beach
Southeast District – West Palm Beach
Southwest District – Temple Terrace

Useful Resources

- Lift Station Inspection Checklist – ACWA/JPIA
  http://www.acwajpia.com/filecabinet/rmnopw/wastewater_ops_and_spill_control/lift_station_insp/lift_station_sog.pdf

- Guide for Evaluating Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) Programs at Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems
Sanitary Sewer Overflows from Satellite Collection Systems

A satellite collection system is a sanitary sewer system owned or operated by an entity other than the entity that owns the wastewater treatment facility to which the system ultimately discharges.

A sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) is any overflow, spill, release, discharge or diversion of untreated or partially treated wastewater from a sanitary sewer system.

SSOs from satellite collection systems can spill domestic wastewater out of manholes and onto streets, stormwater systems, and into surface water bodies before it can reach a treatment facility.

Reduction of SSOs

Owners of satellite collection system can reduce SSOs by developing a Management Plan for their collection system. The plan should include:

- Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Control Program
  - Educate residential and commercial customers of the importance of not pouring fats, oil and grease down the drain.

- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Program
  - Provide maintenance and cleaning the sewer system.
  - Address power and equipment failures, inspection of all electrical components of the system.

- Overflow Emergency Response Program
  - Spill notification including contact numbers.
  - Response and containment protocols.

- Rehabilitation and Replacement Program
  - Identify deficiencies.
  - Establish short-term and long-term action plans.

Frequent sewage overflows could indicate that the system needs repairs, upgrades or expanded capacity. Expanding capacity, upgrading facilities and repairing or replacing aging or broken sewage infrastructure can help prevent sewage overflows.

Through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) provides low-interest loans to plan, design and build or upgrade and expand wastewater facilities. Additional information on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund can be obtained at: https://floridadep.gov/wra/srf/content/cwsrf-program

DEP Operation and Maintenance Requirements

New and existing domestic wastewater collection/transmission systems are required to comply with the following operation and maintenance (O&M) provisions of Chapter 62-604, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C):

- All collection/transmission systems shall be operated and maintained so as to provide uninterrupted service.
- All equipment necessary for the collection/transmission of domestic wastewater shall be maintained to function as intended.
- In the event odor, noise or lighting adversely affect neighboring developed areas at levels prohibited by paragraph 62-604.400(2)(c), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), corrective action (which may include modifications of the collection/transmission system) shall be taken by the permittee. Other corrective action may be required to ensure compliance with DEP rules.
- Copies of record drawings and the O&M manual shall be available for use by O&M personnel and for inspection by DEP personnel.
  - The manual shall provide for the reliable and efficient O&M of the collection/transmission system.
  - The level of details of the manual shall be consistent with the complexity of the system. The manual shall be developed in accordance with the technical guidance documents in Chapter 62-604, F.A.C.
  - The manual shall be revised periodically to reflect any alterations performed or to reflect experience resulting from operation.

Other O&M Requirements

- Deliberate introduction of stormwater in any amount into collection/transmission systems designed solely for the introduction (and conveyance) of domestic wastewater in amounts which may reduce the efficiency of pollutant removal by the treatment plant is prohibited, except as provided by Rule 62-610.472, F.A.C.
- The operating authority of a collection/transmission system and wastewater treatment plant permittees are prohibited from accepting connections of wastewater discharges which have not received necessary pretreatment or which contain materials or pollutants (other than domestic wastewater constituents) which:
  - may cause fire or explosion hazards;
  - may cause excessive corrosion or other deterioration of wastewater facilities;
  - are solid or viscous and obstruct flow or otherwise interfere with wastewater facility operations or treatment;
  - result in the wastewater temperature at the introduction of the treatment plant exceeding 40° C or otherwise inhibiting treatment; and/or
  - result in the presence of toxic gases, vapors, or fumes that may cause worker health and safety problems.