

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

What to look for and how to respond.



What is an illicit discharge?

MPCA: "...any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater. . . "

General Permit MNR040000, 2013

How to recognize:

- Unusual smell.
- Unusual color.
- Oily sheen.
- Trash.
- Leaks.
- Cloudy discharge.
- Stained pavement or structures.

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Examples



Cleaning solutions and chemicals. (Source: EPA.gov.)



Oil and other automotive fluids. (Source: Millers River Watershed.)

Turbid water, possibly from soil erosion.



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More examples



Trash and plant material.



Littering and illegal dumping.



“Dumpster juice.”

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Still more examples



Cigarette butts.



Erosion and vehicle tracking from construction sites.

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Why be concerned about illicit discharges?

The colleges have a stormwater permit from the MPCA that requires them to recognize, report, and respond to illicit discharges to the storm drainage system.

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Not doing so could result in a penalty.

Besides, it's bad for wildlife – and us.



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When should we inspect for illicit discharges?

- When someone reports a possible illicit discharge.
- During routine tasks or inspections of the campus stormwater drainage system.

High-priority areas on campus:

- Areas close to surface waters (Mississippi River, e.g.)
- Areas where automotive repair or maintenance are performed.

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What should I do if I find an illicit discharge?

If you think the discharge is hazardous or an immediate threat to public safety or the environment, call 911.

Contact Roger Freeman at 763-433-1378 or Ed Wilberg at 763-433-1346. They will begin an investigation.

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Questions?

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Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Center for Watershed Protection, 2004

- Guidance Manual
- Technical Appendices

http://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/idde_manualwithappendices.pdf.