



City of East Grand Forks

600 DeMers Ave · P.O. Box 373 · East Grand Forks, MN 56721
218-773-2483 · 218-773-9728 fax www.egf.mn

Public Works Department · 1001 2nd St NE · East Grand Forks, MN 56721

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

BACKGROUND

As a part of the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit, the City of East Grand Forks must meet requirements set forth by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to discharge stormwater into Minnesota's streams, lakes or wetlands. One of these requirements is the detection and elimination of pollutants entering the storm sewer system. Minnesota's public waters are sources of drinking water and provide recreational opportunities like swimming, boating and fishing, which can all be negatively impacted if pollutants travel here by stormwater.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

Illicit discharge is any discharge to the storm sewer system that is harmful to the health or welfare of citizens, the environment, surface waters or storm sewer system. Some examples of illicit discharges would include items such as:

- Sewage from backed up or broken sewer lines
- Overflow from private septic systems
- Overcasting of pesticides or herbicides
- Wash water from cleaning up paint, household cleaners or others
- Concrete washout
- Sediment from construction sites
- Chemical or oil spills
- Grass clippings or yard waste being blown or dumped in the street

Illicit discharges could be intermittent, only occurring a few minutes per day or a few days per year, continuous, occurring almost daily, or transitory, only occurring once.

What incidences are not considered illicit discharges? Items or activities such as residential car washing, firefighting, air conditioning condensate, sump pump discharge or draining swimming pools that are de-chlorinated (left to rest for 7 or more days after treatment) are not classified as illicit.

HOW TO REPORT AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE

All City employees and residents can help. Although illicit discharge detection is incorporated into all inspection and maintenance activities, stormwater employees cannot be present at all times. Stormwater employees may not be readily available to document the illicit discharge. It is important that illicit discharges are reported immediately so the person(s) responsible can be found and the discharge can be stopped, cleaned up and

corrected as soon as possible. We want to respond as quickly as possible to prevent pollution to our environment. If you notice storm sewer discharges with unusual odors, floatables, oily film or atypical coloring or observe evidence of excessive trash, debris or dirt being carried into a storm sewer inlet:

- Ask any persons causing the illicit discharge to stop, if possible.
- Contact the Stormwater Department to report the problem or call 911 if you suspect the issue needs immediate attention or is hazardous.

If a stormwater employee is unavailable to assist:

- Estimate the volume of the liquid spilled and/or size of the area impacted.
- Take photos. The more the better.
- Make note of what the discharge contains, whether it is paint or oil or sewage, etc.
- Also note the business/individual name of any offender caught in the act of performing an illicit discharge when possible.

Stormwater staff can then evaluate the situation and determine if testing is needed to see if pollutants are present.

REQUIRED TRAINING

- Train all current and new employees about IDDE annually.
- All contracts must stipulate that contracted employees are trained in IDDE.
- Educate citizens on IDDE whenever possible and make them aware of the Storm Water Pollution Hotline. (218-773-1313)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Household Hazardous Waste can be disposed of at:

Polk County Environmental Services Transfer Station
320 Ingersoll Ave
Crookston, MN 56716
Monday - 7:00am to 7:00pm
Tuesday through Friday - 7:00am to 5:30pm

Used motor oil and other waste automotive fluids can be disposed of at:

Public Works Department
1001 Second St. N.E.
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
(218) 773-1313

To report an Illicit Discharge, clogged sewer or for answers to questions regarding these stormwater BMPs please contact:

Public Works Stormwater/Wastewater Department
1001 Second St. N.E.
East Grand Forks, MN 56721
(218) 773-1313