

## Standard Operating Procedure Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response and Reporting

The purpose of this document is to establish a standard procedure for responding to and reporting sanitary sewer overflows from the City of Valdosta collection system. All sanitary sewer overflows require immediate response to stop the overflow and secure the affected area to protect public health. All overflows must be investigated to determine the cause and any contributing factors. Finally, all overflows must be documented to fulfill regulatory requirements and to provide information for future collection system improvements and repairs. Any sanitary overflow that allows untreated wastewater to enter waters of the state must be reported to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD), to the local media, and to the health department as required under the Georgia Rules for Water Quality Control section 391-3-6-.05 Emergency Actions.

### I. Definitions:

“Major Spill” means:

1. The discharge of pollutants into the waters of the State by a POTW that exceeds the weekly average permitted effluent limit for biochemical oxygen demand (5-day) or total suspended solids by 50 percent or greater for any one day, provided that the effluent discharge concentration is equal to or greater than 25 mg/L for biochemical oxygen demand or total suspended solids.
2. Any discharge of raw sewage that (1) is in excess of 10,000 gallons or (2) results in water quality violations in the waters of the State.

“Spill” means any discharge of raw sewage by a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) to waters of the state.

“Waters of the State” means any and all rivers, streams, creeks, branches, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, drainage systems, springs, wells, and all other bodies of surface or subsurface water, natural or artificial, lying within or forming a part of the boundaries of the state which are not entirely confined and retained completely upon the property of a single individual, partnership, or corporation. (O.C.G.A. 12-5-22)

### II. Identification of sanitary sewer overflow:

- A. When a report of an overflow is received a utilities department crew must be dispatched to confirm that an overflow does exist. If the report is received after normal working hours the standby crew must respond. Upon locating and confirming the overflow the responders must follow procedures to document the overflow and aid in determining the extent of the overflow. Supervisors responding to the overflow will be able to help collect information and will make sure that all needed information is gathered.