

# Frequently Asked Questions about Reporting Illicit Discharges and Spills



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## Illicit Discharges and Spills under the Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permits

### Q: What is an illicit discharge?

**A:** The municipal stormwater permits define an illicit discharge as discharge into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is not composed entirely of stormwater. Illicit discharges may be deliberate or mistaken, direct or indirect. Generally, illicit discharges fit one of the following categories:

1. Non-stormwater connections to the stormwater conveyance system including sewage and industrial wastewater.
2. Non-stormwater illegal discharges, dumping and improper disposal, including:
  - Discharges from potable water sources, including water line flushing, hyper-chlorinated water line flushing, fire hydrant system flushing, and pipeline hydrostatic test water.
  - Discharges from lawn watering and other irrigation runoff (except agricultural runoff).
  - Swimming pool water that has not been de-chlorinated, cleaning wastewater and filter backwash.
  - Street and sidewalk wash water, water used to control dust, and routine external building wash down,
  - Un-permitted de-watering water.
3. Spills which must be cleaned up, are incidental and short-lived, and are of a substance that has the potential to compromise water quality.

### **DEFINITION IN PERMIT**

*Illicit discharge means any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater except discharges pursuant to an NPDES permit (other than the NPDES permit for discharges from the municipal separate storm sewer) and discharges resulting from fire fighting activities.*

**Q: Under what conditions do the municipal storm water permits require specific notification and/or reporting?**

**A:** Three kinds of situations require notification and reporting to Ecology:

1. Illicit discharges **into the MS4** that present a severe or imminent threat to human health or the environment.
2. Discharges **from the MS4** that may cause or contribute to an imminent threat to human health or the environment or that are causing or contributing to a violation of water quality standard.
3. Illicit discharges that **do not** present severe or imminent threats to human health or the environment, and **do not** cause the MS4's discharge to contribute to a violation of water quality standards.

**Q. How do I report a spill into my MS4 that presents a severe or imminent threat to human health or the environment? (G3)**

**A:** Immediately, but no later than 24 hours after obtaining the knowledge, contact the City of Orting at the below given numbers:

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm (360) 893-2219  
After hours/weekends (253) 377-0262

Please be prepared to answer the following questions or to leave this information for voice mail messages.

**Time & Date**

**Location**

**Who caused the is discharge** (name if possible)

**What is being discharged** (if able to identify)

**Volume of Discharge**

**License of Vehicle, Vicinity of Discharge or Nearest Address.**

For all spills, we must retain records of the incident and associated response actions. The City must report that information in our Municipal Stormwater Annual Report and upon request.