



# Sewer Overflow Response Plan (SORP)

Revision 1  
January 21, 2015

This page intentionally left blank

# SEWER OVERFLOW RESPONSE PLAN

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION AND REQUIREMENTS .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1 SORP Overview.....	1-1
1.1.1 Purpose .....	1-1
1.1.2 Goals and Objectives.....	1-1
1.2 Contacts .....	1-2
1.3 EPA Consent Decree SORP Requirements .....	1-2
1.4 Applicable Definitions .....	1-2
<b>2.0 IDENTIFICATION, DISPATCH, &amp; SITE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES.....</b>	<b>2-1</b>
2.1 Receipt of Information Regarding a Potential SSO and/or Building/Private Property Backup ..	2-1
2.2 Service Request.....	2-2
2.3 Dispatch .....	2-2
2.4 Site Investigation of Potential SSOs .....	2-3
<b>3.0 GRAVITY SEWER SSO RESPONSE PROCEDURES .....</b>	<b>3-1</b>
3.1 Resources .....	3-1
3.2 Site Assessment .....	3-1
<b>4.0 BUILDING/PRIVATE PROPERTY BACKUP PROCEDURE.....</b>	<b>4-1</b>
4.1 Communication with Customers - Reporting Private Property Backups .....	4-1
4.2 Timeframe for Initial Response and Cleanup Operations.....	4-1
4.3 Cleanup Measures for Conditions Caused by SAWS WCTS .....	4-1
4.4 Measures to Correct the Building/Private Property Backup .....	4-2
<b>5.0 LIFT STATION AND FORCE MAIN SSO RESPONSE .....</b>	<b>5-1</b>
5.1 Lift Station and Force Main SSO Response Procedures .....	5-1
5.2 Resources .....	5-1
5.3 Site Assessment .....	5-1





5.4 Determining When a Wastewater Pump Around Will Be Utilized .....5-2

**6.0 SSO MITIGATION MEASURES ..... 6-1**

6.1 Containment .....6-1

6.2 Flow Diversion.....6-1

6.3 Pump and Haul.....6-2

6.4 Relieve the SSO .....6-2

**7.0 MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ..... 7-1**

7.1 Minimize SSO Volume .....7-1

7.2 Water Quality Sampling .....7-1

**8.0 SSO VOLUME AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND APPLICABLE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES ... 8-1**

8.1 SSO Volume Released and Recovered .....8-1

8.2 Public Notification.....8-1

8.3 Temporary Signage .....8-2

8.4 Regulatory Notification .....8-3

8.5 Other Notification .....8-4

**9.0 CLEANUP ACTIVITIES – EXCLUDING PRIVATE PROPERTY BACKUPS ..... 9-1**

9.1 Timeframe for SSO Cleanup .....9-1

9.2 Cleanup Activities.....9-1

9.3 Supervisor Approved: Cleaning Complete .....9-2

**10.0 POST-SSO INVESTIGATION ..... 10-1**

10.1 Post SSO Inspection and Case Generation.....10-1

10.2 Case Assignment .....10-1

**11.0 MEASURES TO MINIMIZE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SSO REOCCURRENCE ..... 11-1**

11.1 SSO Assessment Investigation (Root Cause).....11-1

11.2 Post SSO Debriefing .....11-3

**12.0 SORP MAINTENANCE ..... 12-1**

12.1 Update SORP .....12-1

12.2 Distribution and Availability of SORP .....12-1

**13.0 CERTIFICATION..... 13-1****LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 11-1 Factors Used to Determine Root Cause..... 11-2

**APPENDICES**

Appendix A	SAWS Organizational Chart
Appendix B	Consent Decree SORP Requirements
Appendix C	Applicable Definitions
Appendix D	Wastewater Spill Reporting Procedure
Appendix E	Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Procedure
Appendix F	Water Quality Sampling: Standard Operating Procedures for On Call Response
Appendix G	Letter to Customer
Appendix H	Claims Letter/Form
Appendix I	Lift Station and Force Main SSO Response Plans
Appendix J	Spill/SSO Volume Calculation Guidance and Reference Sheet for Estimating Sewer Spills
Appendix K	Notice of Spill from a Wastewater Facility Form
Appendix L	Sample of Warning Signs
Appendix M	“5-Day” TCEQ Water Quality Noncompliance Notification Form

**Acronym and Abbreviation List:**

<b>CCTV</b>	Closed Circuit Television
<b>CIP</b>	Capital Improvement Program
<b>CMMS</b>	Computerized Maintenance Management System
<b>CWA</b>	Clean Water Act
<b>DR</b>	Design Request
<b>EPA</b>	United States Environmental Protection Agency
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Center
<b>FOG</b>	Fats, Oils and Grease
<b>FSE</b>	Food Service Establishment
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information System
<b>I&amp;I</b>	Infiltration and Inflow
<b>LC/TV</b>	Line Cleaning/Televising
<b>LS</b>	Lift Station
<b>NASSCO</b>	National Association of Sewer Service Companies
<b>PACP</b>	Pipeline Assessment and Certification Program
<b>PM</b>	Preventative Maintenance
<b>PR</b>	Point Repair
<b>QA/QC</b>	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
<b>RPC</b>	SAWS Resource Protection and Compliance
<b>SAWS</b>	San Antonio Water System
<b>SCADA</b>	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
<b>SORP</b>	Sewer Overflow Response Plan
<b>SR</b>	Service Request
<b>SSO</b>	Sanitary Sewer Overflow
<b>STRPT</b>	Situation Report
<b>TWQCA</b>	Texas Water Quality Control Act
<b>WCTS</b>	Wastewater Collection and Transmission System
<b>WO</b>	Work Order

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION AND REQUIREMENTS

The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) is a water and wastewater service provider, serving the City of San Antonio and other portions of Bexar County. The geographic area served by SAWS includes over 420 square miles and a population of more than 1 million people. SAWS operates and maintains a wastewater collection and transmission system (WCTS) that includes approximately 5,200 miles of sewer main and presently 155 Lift Stations. SAWS Organizational Chart is provided in Appendix A.

The Sewer Overflow Response Plan (SORP) describes SAWS processes and procedures for identifying, responding to, mitigating, reporting, categorizing, and tracking sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and Building/Private Property Backup events. It provides structured guidance for SSO response, including a range of appropriate and effective field activities that are available to SAWS to meet the needs of each situation.

SAWS response officials will use their best professional judgment to evaluate each SSO and will utilize appropriate mitigation/remediation approaches and tools. The procedures established in this document are guidance for SAWS to address SSOs and Building/Private Property Backup events. Due to the unique circumstances of each event, additional measures and approaches not included herein may be appropriate.

### 1.1 SORP Overview

#### 1.1.1 Purpose

This SORP was developed to describe SAWS processes for identifying, responding to, mitigating, reporting, categorizing and tracking SSOs and Building/Private Property Backup events and the locations where they occur.

#### 1.1.2 Goals and Objectives

The goals of the SORP are to provide the guidelines, processes and procedures for SAWS to quickly respond to and relieve SSOs and Building/Private Property Backup events, minimize health and environmental impacts, perform effective clean-up operations, report SSOs to regulators and provide Public Notification, as appropriate and to implement corrective actions to reduce the likelihood of a recurrence.

Implementation of the SORP is intended to achieve and maintain compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA), the Texas Water Quality Control Act (TWQCA) and the regulations

promulgated thereunder and to comply with the requirements of the Consent Decree that is described in Paragraph 1.3 of the SORP.

## 1.2 Contacts

### SAWS:

San Antonio Water System, San Antonio, Texas  
2800 US Hwy 281 North  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
Phone: 210.704.SAWS

Jeff Haby: Senior Director, Sewer System Improvements  
jeff.haby@saws.org  
Phone: (210) 233-3747

## 1.3 EPA Consent Decree SORP Requirements

On October 15, 2013 a Consent Decree (CD) between the San Antonio Water System and the United States of America and the State of Texas was entered in Civil Action No. 5:13-cv-00666-DAE in the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, San Antonio Division. Pursuant to Section V of the Consent Decree, within one hundred fifty (150) days of the Date of Lodging (July 23, 2013) SAWS is required to develop and submit a SORP to EPA for review and comment. This Plan is submitted in compliance with that requirement. A copy of Paragraph 13 of the EPA Consent Decree describing the SORP requirements and identifying the Section(s) of the SORP that address each of the Consent Decree SORP requirements is included in Appendix B.

## 1.4 Applicable Definitions

Unless otherwise indicated, terms used in this SORP shall have the same meaning as the terms defined in the Consent Decree. Paragraph 7 of the Consent Decree defines the terms that are used in this SORP (See Appendix C).

Note: definitions of terms defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP are not included therein.

## 2.0 IDENTIFICATION, DISPATCH, & SITE INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

This Section describes the methods SAWS utilizes to receive information regarding a potential SSO and/or Building/Private Property Backup, to properly document and track notifications, and to subsequently dispatch crews to perform a Site Investigation. The purpose of these procedures is to identify and rapidly respond to potential SSOs and/or Building/Private Property Backups.

Under most circumstances, SAWS employees can perform all response actions to correct the underlying issue with its own maintenance forces. They have the skills, experience and equipment to respond rapidly and in an appropriate manner. If circumstances require additional resources, such as, but not limited to responding to extensive emergencies (e.g. bypass operations for large diameter mains), SAWS has contracts available with third parties to support in-house resources.

### 2.1 Receipt of Information Regarding a Potential SSO and/or Building/Private Property Backup

SAWS investigation of a potential SSO typically begins when a customer, SAWS employee, or an outside party reports a possible SSO by calling into the SAWS Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Building/Private Property Backup events may be reported by a homeowner, a tenant in rental properties, or personnel who work in commercial, industrial, or institutional properties.

Calls are received 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year through the SAWS main phone number 210-704-SAWS (210-704-7297), which is listed on SAWS website and that is provided in the monthly water/sewer bills, and 210-233-2045, which is posted on each lift station fence.

In addition to calls to the EOC, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA), Smart Covers and other SAWS remote telemetry systems provide alerts to the EOC that may warrant an investigation of a potential SSO. The EOC/Control Center monitors the SAWS Lift Station SCADA system, phone dialers (Verbatims) and Smart Covers 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

## 2.2 Service Request

Once notified of a possible SSO and/or Building/Private Property Backup, the EOC typically generates a Service Request (SR)<sup>(1)</sup> in Hansen, SAWS computerized maintenance management system (CMMS). The SR includes a unique number, address, or intersection and tracks relevant information which typically includes:

- Time and date call was received;
- Caller's name, address and phone number (if the caller will provide this information);
- Specific location/address and description of the potential SSO and/or Building/Private Property Backup;
- Observations/notations of the caller (e.g. odor and duration); and
- Other relevant information that helps to quickly locate and assess the complaint

A copy of SAWS reporting and notification standard operating procedures is attached as Appendix D.

## 2.3 Dispatch

The EOC dispatches notifications of potential SSOs to appropriate personnel 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year via mobile device to investigate, assess and confirm any potential SSO, Building/Private Property Backup, or facility alarm status as soon as reasonably possible after receiving notification. SAWS managers for Distribution and Collection and Lift Stations maintain a listing of personnel for EOC to dispatch within their respective area of responsibility, to include a maintenance crew, mechanic and/or electrician as warranted.

During normal business hours, the goal for the typical timeframe for initial response to an SSO is, on average, within one hour after notification and, on average, within two hours during non-business hours. The SSO Report included in the monthly National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) has been modified to include the actual response time for each SSO. A template for the modified monthly DMR is located in Appendix H of the CMOM Program.

---

<sup>1</sup> Note 1: For potential SSO response at a lift station, a work order is generated in lieu of a Service Request. For an SSO related to contractor construction activities, the SSO is tracked in SAWS SSO history database and SSO mitigation and cleanup is coordinated through SAWS Construction Inspection group.

## 2.4 Site Investigation of Potential SSOs

The SAWS First Responder dispatched to the site of a possible SSO and/or Building/Private Property Backup proceeds to the reported location to assess the situation and confirm that an SSO exists. If no SSO is found, dispatched personnel will contact EOC and request that the customer be contacted to ensure that crews are investigating the correct location.

First Responders will continue to investigate the WCTS within the vicinity of the reported SSO to ensure proper flow in the system until confirmation (if possible) is received that the correct location is being investigated.

SAWS staff will contact EOC and request Resource Protection & Compliance (RPC) support if a suspicious odor or substance not common to sewer systems is noted. In the event that a hazardous material response team is needed based on RPC evaluation, SAWS personnel will await the arrival of the San Antonio Fire Department to take over the location of the event. When the Fire Department arrives, SAWS staff shall take direction from the Fire Department Incident Commander. SAWS has hazardous materials management contracts with third parties to support cleanup activities, when warranted.

SAWS staff completes an SR Investigation Form to capture information obtained from the Site Investigation in real-time to include the following:

- Time and date arrived at location
- Description of information obtained
- Follow-up information, to include Customer Response (CR) Cleaning Inspection
- Resources used
- Time and date departed location

If it is determined that the SSO is caused by SAWS WCTS, then SAWS staff implements the appropriate SSO Response Procedure:

- For Gravity Sewer SSO Response, see Section 3.0
- For Private Property Backups, see Section 4.0
- For Lift Station and Force Main SSOs, see Section 5.0

Staff will also implement SSO Mitigation Measures (Section 6.0).



### 3.0 GRAVITY SEWER SSO RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Once an SSO is confirmed for a gravity sewer, SAWS will follow the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Procedure provided in Appendix E. This Section of the SORP describes available resources and identifies Site Assessment objectives that supplement Appendix E.

#### 3.1 Resources

SAWS service area is divided into two geographic areas with an Emergency Response (ER) Flushing/Vacuum Combo Machine (Combo Unit) primarily responsible for managing emergency calls within each geographic area. If additional resources are needed due to multiple calls during normal business hours, the EOC uses a GPS-based vehicle tracking system to determine the location of the closest Preventative Maintenance (PM) Combo Unit. EOC will confirm availability with a Superintendent and subsequently, dispatch the closest available crew. Additional maintenance personnel are “On Call” in the event additional resources are needed after normal business hours.

#### 3.2 Site Assessment

SAWS staff will perform a Site Assessment to identify the asset experiencing the SSO, determine an initial SSO estimated volume, ascertain the geographic extent of the SSO and request additional resources, if warranted. SAWS staff will then contact the EOC to provide the information obtained during the Site Assessment for them to capture the data in the Hansen CMMS. The EOC subsequently informs the On Call Superintendent and RPC On Call Personnel and provides an updated status of the SSO.

Using the data provided to the EOC, a Situation Report (STRPT) is then generated and sent automatically via email to designated management providing initial information concerning the event. The STRPT Program is a computer application, managed by EOC, to quickly and efficiently inform management of significant situations pertaining to SAWS resources.

If warranted, SAWS staff, generally RPC, will continue the Site Assessment with the following responsibilities:

- Determine the extent and impact from the SSO (e.g. does it pose an immediate risk to public health, was there property damage or a fish kill)
- Take photos of the impacted area
- Determine sampling locations and perform sampling, if warranted
- If sampling is warranted, see Appendix F.



## 4.0 BUILDING/PRIVATE PROPERTY BACKUP PROCEDURE

When responding to a customer call regarding a building/private property backup, SAWS staff will inspect the water level in both upstream and downstream manholes to determine if a backup may be caused by a blockage in the main. If no wastewater is flowing in the downstream manhole, or if a significant change in the flow is observed SAWS will clean and flush the upstream main (SAWS Lateral Stoppage or Backup Procedure for crews is included in Appendix E).

If SAWS main is flowing, the customer will be advised that SAWS WCTS is functional and that they should seek the services of a licensed plumber to further investigate. A letter, written in both English and Spanish, is left with the customer outlining this process (copy of the Letter is provided as Appendix G).

The licensed plumber employed by the customer will determine if the backup is caused by a private service lateral failure. If it is determined, despite SAWS prior investigation, that the SSO was caused by SAWS WCTS, the customer may submit the plumber's invoice and SAWS reimburses the customer for that cost. Subsequently, a Work Order is generated in Hansen to address the defect in the WCTS causing the Building/Private Property Backup.

### 4.1 Communication with Customers - Reporting Private Property Backups

Calls are received 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year through the SAWS main phone number 210-704-SAWS (210-704-7297), which is posted on SAWS website and in the monthly water/sewer bills.

### 4.2 Timeframe for Initial Response and Cleanup Operations

The typical timeframe for response to any SSO or private property backup is discussed in Section 2.3, "Dispatch".

The timeframe for the completion of the cleanup activities is dependent on the extent of the areas adversely affected and private access issues. SAWS goal is to clean up private property backups as soon as practical and the typical timeframe objective for the completion of cleanup activities is within an average of 2 days.

### 4.3 Cleanup Measures for Conditions Caused by SAWS WCTS

SAWS will provide the property owner, property owner's representative, or tenant with the information/guidelines to follow to submit a claim, which includes information on how to

contact SAWS Claim Department at 210-233-3375. An example of the Claim Letter/Form that is provided to a customer is attached as Appendix H.

If it is determined that a Building/Private Property Backup is caused by SAWS WCTS, SAWS will hire an independent cleaning and restoration contractor who will use cleanup measures consistent with standards in that industry.

The types of cleanup measures may include wet vacuuming or other removal of spillage, wiping floors and walls with cleaning solution and disinfectant, flushing out and disinfecting plumbing fixtures, carpet cleaning and/or replacement or other appropriate measures to disinfect and/or remove items potentially contaminated by Building/Private Property Backups.

#### **4.4 Measures to Correct the Building/Private Property Backup**

See Section 11.0 for a description of SAWS procedures to identify and implement corrective measures to minimize the likelihood of recurrence of a Building/Private Property Backup.

## 5.0 LIFT STATION AND FORCE MAIN SSO RESPONSE

Lift Stations are used to lift or raise wastewater from a lower elevation to a higher elevation. Each station within SAWS system is continuously monitored through a verbatim system (automated phone dialer system) and/or SCADA. Monitoring parameters include, but are not limited to the following:

- Power status (power failure)
- Wet well status (high water)
- Dry well status (where applicable)
- Generator status (where applicable)
- Entry alarm

Signals from the telemetry systems are monitored at the EOC control center and maintained in proper working order by Lift Station Maintenance Department maintenance staff.

### 5.1 Lift Station and Force Main SSO Response Procedures

Emergency operations will be undertaken in the event of a force main failure, power related failure and/or electrical or mechanical failure for any incident involving an SSO. A copy of the Standard Operating Procedures for both lift station and force main SSOs is provided in Appendix I.

These procedures apply to all personnel involved in the operation and maintenance of sanitary sewer lift stations, as well as personnel in the Distribution and Collection and Construction Inspection Departments who are involved in the response to SSOs occurring at lift stations or force mains.

### 5.2 Resources

SAWS service area is divided into two geographic areas; both areas are staffed with mechanics and electricians crews responsible for lift station maintenance and operations as well as managing emergency calls dispatched. Crews perform maintenance throughout the majority of the day and night with “On Call” crews available to provide additional support as needed.

### 5.3 Site Assessment

SAWS staff will perform a Site Assessment to identify the asset experiencing the SSO, determine an initial SSO estimated volume, ascertain the geographic extent of the SSO and request additional resources, if warranted. SAWS staff will then contact the EOC to provide the

information obtained during the Site Assessment for them to capture the data in the Hansen CMMS. The EOC subsequently informs the On Call Superintendent and RPC On Call Personnel and provides an updated status of the SSO.

Using the data provided to the EOC, a Situation Report (STRPT) is then generated and sent automatically via email to designated management providing initial information concerning the event. The STRPT Program is a computer application, managed by EOC, to quickly and efficiently inform management of significant situations pertaining to SAWS resources.

If warranted, SAWS staff, generally RPC, will continue the Site Assessment with the following responsibilities:

- Determine the extent and impact from the SSO (e.g. does it pose an immediate risk to public health, was there property damage, or a fish kill)
- Take photos of the impacted area
- Determine sampling locations and perform sampling, if warranted
- If sampling is warranted, see Appendix F.

#### **5.4 Determining When a Wastewater Pump Around Will Be Utilized**

Refer to the flow diagram included in Appendix I, which describes SAWS guidelines for determining when a wastewater pump-around will be utilized.

## 6.0 SSO MITIGATION MEASURES

After completion of the Site Assessment and appropriate communication with EOC, SAWS staff shall assess and determine appropriate mitigation measures. Mitigation measures include containment, flow diversion, pump and haul, and/or relieving the cause of the SSO.

### 6.1 Containment

The primary mitigation method SAWS utilizes is containment and subsequently, recovery of sewage that has been discharged. Containment is the establishment of a physical barrier to prevent further spreading of the SSO into the surrounding environment. Effective containment confines the sewage to a well-defined area, allowing cleaning and vacuuming equipment to remove as much of the sewage as possible.

This physical barrier helps to reduce adverse impacts. Containment techniques are most practicable and most effective for dry weather, low volume SSOs versus during wet weather SSOs, or when the volume of an SSO exceeds the ability to contain it successfully. Containment procedures will vary on a case by case basis.

### 6.2 Flow Diversion

Flow diversion is another method used to mitigate SSOs by redirecting the sewage from the point of the SSO back into the WCTS. Successful diversion can reduce the adverse effect on the immediate area as well as any downstream areas.

In the event of a prolonged sewer line blockage or a sewer line collapse or lift station failure, flow is diverted using a portable bypass pumping operation around the obstruction, or excavating a drainage trench from the SSO point to the nearest gravity sewer manhole. If bypass operations are required, appropriate measures are taken to determine the proper size and number of pumps required to effectively handle the sewage flow. In addition, monitoring of the onsite bypass pumping operation is required.

### 6.3 Pump and Haul

Pump and haul is another method used to mitigate SSOs by providing additional resources for the collection of discharged wastewater and its conveyance back to the WCTS beyond the location experiencing the service disruption. This equipment typically includes vacuum and tanker trucks and can be used in conjunction with other mitigation measures.

### 6.4 Relieve the SSO

Another type of mitigation is to correct or eliminate the cause of an SSO.

SAWS staff will begin the task of relieving the cause of the SSO, which may consist of removing a blockage/obstruction such as roots, FOG, or debris from a main using cleaning and vacuum equipment (Combo Unit). A root cutter attachment may be necessary to eliminate heavy roots. Data pertaining to the cleaning is captured on a Cleaning Inspection Form and tracked in Hansen.

For SSOs caused by a collapse, defective pipe, or a break caused by contractor activities, an emergency repair Work Order (WO) is generated and necessary containment and diversion procedures will be put in place, if warranted, until the repairs are completed. Maintenance crews or contractors will make the repair, documenting information on the Hansen WO. If additional repair may be required for the associated asset, a Design Request will be submitted to SAWS Engineering for evaluation of a possible CIP project.

An emergency repair WO in Hansen is generated for SSOs caused by mechanical or electrical problems at a lift station. Containment and other emergency measures will be put in place, if warranted, until the lift station repairs are completed.

## 7.0 MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Measures to minimize environmental impact include minimizing the volume of the wastewater released from the WCTS during an SSO and ensuring water quality samples are obtained and sent for laboratory analysis when warranted.

### 7.1 Minimize SSO Volume

When arriving at an SSO site, SAWS staff will implement the SSO mitigation measures in Section 6.0. In addition to SSO mitigation measures, SAWS staff will also implement measures to minimize the volume of the SSO when warranted. Measures that will be utilized include:

- Pump around the blockage or vacuum flow from a manhole upstream of the blockage and dispose of the flow into the WCTS downstream of the blockage to minimize SSO volume
- Manually controlling pump stations that discharge upstream of the impacted area allowing the system to be used as storage
- If the SSO is from a force main, transfer flows to parallel force main, if available
- If the SSO is from a force main, drain the force main to minimize the quantity of the spill
- Employ pump truck operations to remove wastewater from the wet well and dispose of the wastewater at an appropriate location

When necessary, contractor services may be requested as additional resources to minimize the volume of an SSO.

### 7.2 Water Quality Sampling

Water quality sampling and testing is required whenever an SSO reaches and enters a water body. RPC has staff on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to SSOs to provide water quality sampling, when warranted. The Standard Operating Procedures for On Call Response and the Water Quality Sampling Procedures provide guidelines for SAWS staff pertaining to water quality sampling operations, including sampling equipment. Both documents are provided in Appendix F.

Analysis and collection of samples are performed in accordance with the methods specified in 40 CFR Part 136. At a minimum, sample sites will be chosen in an area located upstream from the influence of the SSO and an area immediately downstream. Other sample sites may be selected where fresh water flow enters an impaired stream to evaluate the impact of this



confluence. The sampling strategy for the SSO will depend upon the size of the SSO and the time for repair.

## 8.0 SSO VOLUME AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC AND APPLICABLE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

This Section provides information used by SAWS for estimating the SSO volume released from the WCTS and wastewater recovered. In addition, a description is provided of the actions undertaken to ensure notification to the public and to applicable governmental authorities of the SSO from the WCTS when such notice is required by SAWS TPDES permits or applicable law.

### 8.1 SSO Volume Released and Recovered

The Spill/SSO Volume Calculation Guidance, as well as the Reference Sheet for Estimating Sewer Spills (included in Appendix J) are used by SAWS to ensure consistency and standardization in reporting the volume of an SSO.

There are three methods for estimating SSO volume:

1. Method 1: Visual Estimate
2. Method 2: Measured Volume
3. Method 3: Duration and Flow Rate

Field verification and documentation is required for all SSOs and is obtained and captured by personnel responding to the SSO. In all cases, appropriate effort will be made to make a reasonable estimate of the SSO volume, as well as the volume captured and returned to the WCTS. Some SSOs may occur in locations where wastewater can seep into the ground, or flow away from the SSO location. In such conditions, the time that the SSO was detected and observations from the field will be considered in the calculation.

Volume returned to the WCTS is calculated based on a calculation of the gallons vacuumed and hauled and/or the amount pumped and returned to the WCTS at the nearest feasible manhole.

### 8.2 Public Notification

The Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC Chapter 319, Subchapter C §319.301-319.303) provides requirements for public notification of SSOs, as well as notification to local governmental officials and the local media whenever one of the following types of spills occur:

1. *A spill, regardless of volume, that the facility owner knows or has reason to know, that will adversely affect a public or private source of drinking water*
2. *A spill with a volume of 50,000 gallons or more where one or more of the*

*following conditions also exist:*

- a. The spill occurs within ½ mile of a public or private source of drinking water;*
  - b. The spill occurs within ½ mile of a private drinking water well which is located within ½ mile of a public water supply well;*
  - c. The spill occurs within ½ mile up-gradient of a surface water intake of a public or private source of drinking water;*
  - d. The spill occurs in an active groundwater recharge area;*
  - e. The spill occurs up-gradient and within ½ mile of a karst terrain or shallow alluvial well that is a source of drinking water;*
3. *A spill of 100,000 gallons or more*

SAWS Sewer System Improvements Department informs SAWS Communications Department when an SSO meets any of the criteria for public notification. Subsequently, the Communications Department informs the public and media using the required “Notice of Spill From a Wastewater Facility Form”, presented as Appendix K, that is required by 30 TAC §319.303.

### **8.3 Temporary Signage**

SAWS staff will attempt to prevent public access by establishing a control zone around the perimeter of the affected surface area using appropriate signs and barricading practices. The temporary signs and barricades will vary for each location; however, the goal will always be to warn the public to avoid contact with areas affected until cleanup is completed. Signs and barricades will be posted after the SSO is confirmed and will remain in place until cleanup activities are completed.

SAWS determines when to post notices of polluted surface water bodies or ground surfaces that result from SSOs. The postings provide a warning of potential public health risks due to sewage contamination. Warning signs will be posted by RPC personnel upon initial investigation that waters have been adversely affected and will not be removed until the threat has been abated (when results of analysis of water samples do not indicate the presence of wastewater). Signs are in Spanish and English to warn of potential public health risks due to sewage contamination. Copies of the Warning Signs are presented in Appendix L.

## 8.4 Regulatory Notification

SAWS provides notification to the Edward's Aquifer Authority of any SSO of 500 gallons or more occurring over the EARZ and/ or portions of the Contributing Zone as required by the Edwards Aquifer Authority Rules, Sections 713.400-409.

SAWS provides notification to TCEQ within 24 hours of a confirmed SSO. SAWS will subsequently prepare and submit a "5-Day" TCEQ Water Quality Noncompliance Notification Form (No. TCEQ-0501), documenting the original notification to TCEQ within five days of the SSO. A copy of the "5-Day" TCEQ Water Quality Noncompliance Notification Form is provided as Appendix M.

The "5-Day" TCEQ Water Quality Noncompliance Notification Form contains information which is required by TCEQ and is completed by the Operator and approved by management prior to submittal. Information regarding the SSO includes the following:

- General Information:
  - Entity Name
  - Telephone
  - Permittee or Subscriber
  - TCEQ Region
  - County
  - Permit Number
- Noncompliance Summary:
  - Description of Noncompliance (Location, Discharge Route, and Estimated Volume)
  - Date and Time of start and stop of an SSO or when it is expected to be corrected
  - Potential Dangers to Human Health or the Environment
- Actions Taken:
  - Monitoring Data, Field Measurements, Laboratory Samples, Fish Kill (Note: When fish kill occurs, the regulatory notification to TCEQ will include details of fish species and estimated numbers killed in each species.)
  - Actions to Mitigate Adverse Effects
  - Actions to Correct the Problem and Prevent Recurrence

- Verification Information:
  - Information Reported By/Title
  - Date Reported
  - Signature

SAWS is also required to report SSOs in the monthly National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR), which is submitted to TCEQ. Both the 5-Day and the Monthly Reports are sent to EPA and DOJ the same day they are submitted to TCEQ to meet CD requirements.

## 8.5 Other Notification

SAWS staff provides notification to the following, as warranted:

San Antonio River Authority (if the San Antonio River or its tributaries are impacted)

Contact: Ronnie Hernandez  
 210-215-9202 Cell  
 210-302-3609 Office  
 866-345-7272 SARA

Metro Health Department (if SSO may have affected a private well or private water source)

Contact: Duty Supervisor  
 201-207-0135 Office  
 Sanitation Services Manager (After Hours)  
 Contact: Steven Barscewski  
 210-207-4079 Office  
 210-389-7848 Cell

## 9.0 CLEANUP ACTIVITIES - EXCLUDING PRIVATE PROPERTY BACKUPS

Cleanup activities will be completed following containing and relieving the SSO. SAWS cleanup and recovery efforts will be directed at returning the affected area to a pre-SSO condition as quickly and efficiently as possible.

### 9.1 Timeframe for SSO Cleanup

Generally, cleanup and recovery efforts are completed as quickly and efficiently as practical after restoring flow on small volume SSOs.

SAWS cleanup and recovery efforts on large SSOs (>10,000 gallons) will be directed at returning the affected area to pre-SSO condition as quickly and efficiently as practical and as conditions permit.

The timeframe for the completion of the cleanup activities is dependent on the extent of the areas adversely affected. SAWS goal is to cleanup SSOs with a volume >10,000 gallons as soon as practical and the typical timeframe objective for the completion of cleanup activities is within an average of 5 days.

### 9.2 Cleanup Activities

The extent and methods used for cleanup actions vary depending upon the situation and the methods selected will be performed thoroughly for all SSOs. No visual residue will remain, including solids, paper, plastic, or rags.

Manual cleanup techniques include the use of handheld tools such as shovels, rakes and brooms to remove readily identifiable waste material originating from the WCTS. Subsequently, the affected area is typically washed down, with the wash water directed to the nearest manhole. If a manhole is not readily available, a Combo truck is used to vacuum the wash water and dispose back into the WCTS. A disinfectant and/or deodorizing agent will be applied to the affected areas.

Mechanical equipment such as a Combo Unit may be used to clean paved areas and excavators may be used to remove contaminated soil, depending on the extent of the impact.

The general process is as follows:

- Response crew will use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during cleanup and recovery

- The affected area from the SSO will be cleaned up as much as possible using rakes, shovels, squeegees, hand picker tools and vacuum equipment
- The affected SSO area will be evaluated for appropriate disinfection. This may include applying bleach to the affected area
- An appropriate buffer zone will be maintained between disinfected areas and surface waters
- The immediate area around the SSO site will be inspected to ensure that no visual residue remains, including solids, papers, and rags
- Photographic evidence of SSO cleanup is taken for all SSOs greater than 10,000 gallons
- All solids and debris will be collected and disposed of properly
- If flushing with potable water from a fire hydrant is warranted and ultimately performed, wash down water will be returned to the WCTS to the extent practical

### 9.3 Supervisor Approved: Cleaning Complete

SAWS has implemented a sign-off protocol for all SSOs to ensure successful onsite cleanup operations. A representative from RPC is responsible for conducting site inspections and logging data within a database that tracks date and time of the inspection, noting the status of cleanup operations in the comment field.

In the event of a large spill (greater than 10,000 gallons) RPC will perform an additional inspection one week after cleanup activities are confirmed to be completed. The purpose of the additional inspection is to verify all materials were removed and ensure that there has been no seepage to the surface that would warrant additional cleanup activities and removal of any remaining warning signage. Photographic evidence will be included in the final signoff.

An RPC Supervisor will confirm the status of the cleanup operation, that cleanup is complete, or determine that additional action is required. An RPC Supervisor will confirm when cleanup has been successfully completed and provide a sign off of the onsite cleanup operations.

## 10.0 POST-SSO INVESTIGATION

When it is determined that an SSO originated in SAWS WCTS, an inspection is performed of each sewer pipe that experiences an SSO by means of CCTV utilizing Pipeline Assessment and Certification Program (PACP) scoring captured in Pipe Tech, by pole camera or other appropriate inspection methods as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours following the cessation of an SSO.

The purpose of the inspection is to capture information of the condition of the pipe soon after experiencing an SSO to help determine the root cause of the SSO and to implement the appropriate measure(s) to minimize the risk of reoccurrence.

### 10.1 Post SSO Inspection and Case Generation

Typically, inspections of the sewer pipe asset that experienced an SSO and the first adjacent pipe upstream and the first adjacent pipe downstream are included in a Case. The term Case is used to group all inspections pertaining to a particular SSO event. Additional assets may be added to the Case based on historical data or information gathered during the SSO response.

For SSOs and private property backups caused by the gravity portion of SAWS WCTS, a Case is generated simultaneously in the Sewer Main Maintenance and Research database (SMMR db) and Hansen CMMS. Inspection(s) to clean and inspect selected assets are generated and grouped together. The decision to determine which assets are included in a Case is based on reviewing, when warranted, the following: information obtained during onsite SSO activities, historical data for assets of concern and adjacent assets, corrective actions (past or pending) and planned CIP Projects including target project completion timelines. The grouped Inspections for cleaning and CCTV are generated with a Case Number for subsequent tracking purposes.

### 10.2 Case Assignment

The LC/TV Planning Team emails the Superintendent to inform him/her that a Case has been generated and inspections have been assigned to their department.

Information included in the email includes, but is not limited to:

- Pertinent information of the Case
  - SSO volume estimate
  - Initial cause of SSO
  - Size and type of pipe



- Date of overflow
- Customer Response Number
- Material(s) removed from the line
- Any noted blockages and associated CCTV footage
- Map highlighting Case assets
- Aerial photo highlighting the Case assets
- Maintenance history on assets

Findings from Cases are reviewed by SAWS staff as described in Section 11.0.

## 11.0 MEASURES TO MINIMIZE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SSO REOCCURRENCE

SAWS will implement the appropriate mitigation measure to minimize the likelihood of recurrence of an SSO. The measures selected will be based on the results of the Post SSO Inspection and Case described in Section 10.0.

### 11.1 SSO Assessment Investigation (Root Cause)

Post-SSO Assessment Investigations are based on reviewing pertinent information including, but not limited to, maintenance history, CCTV data, crew comments, available photos of the affected area and site location/conditions.

An SSO review meeting is held regularly, as warranted, to review each SSO or Case as it is referred to during the SSO Assessment Investigation. SAWS Operational staff or contractors who performed the field investigation are present at the meeting along with members of various departments involved in WCTS Operations, Maintenance, Engineering, and SAWS FOG Program.

Each Case is discussed by the person who performed the field investigation. The findings during the field investigation, as well as cleaning history, rain events, or other relevant information is evaluated by the team present at the meeting. Based upon this information, the team present at the meeting determines the root cause of the SSO utilizing the guidelines shown in Figure 11-1. In some cases, additional assessment is recommended prior to confirming the root cause.

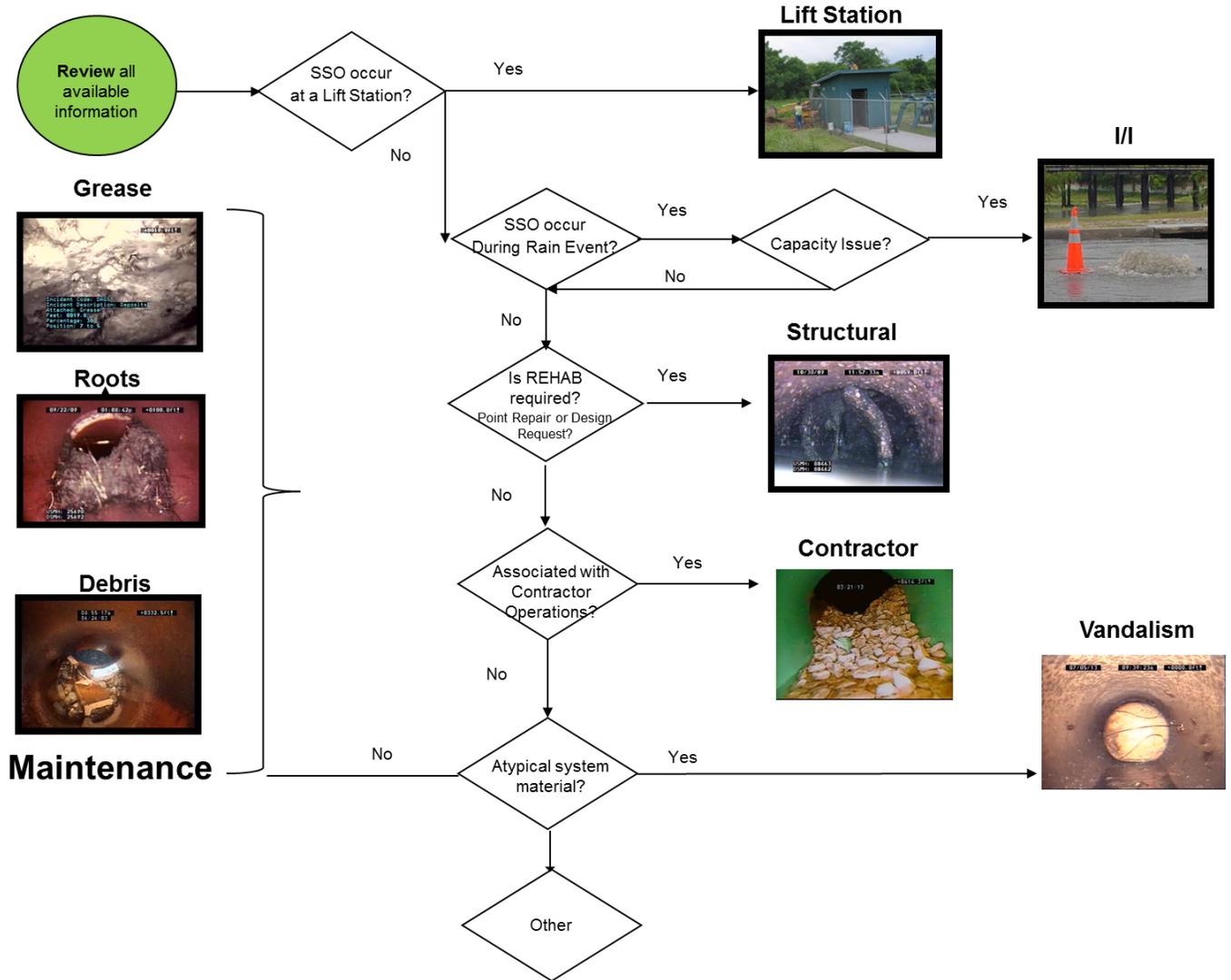
After identifying the underlying cause of the SSO, the Team develops the corrective measure(s) or actions that will minimize the likelihood of recurrence of an SSO. The type of mitigation and remediation to prevent a recurrence will vary depending on the cause of the SSO, and several strategies or actions SAWS may utilize include:

- Maintain (Adjust cleaning frequency and/or type)
- Monitor (Use of smart covers or more frequent inspection)
- Address condition issues
  - Repair urgent or emergency conditions when appropriate
  - Refer for Alternatives Analysis
- Address potential capacity constraints
  - Referred to SAWS Capacity Assessment Program

If an SSO reoccurs on the same asset, SAWS will consider and implement alternate corrective measures as warranted.

Figure 11-1 Factors Used to Determine Root Cause

# SAWS Root Cause Analysis Process



## 11.2 Post SSO Debriefing

SSOs are unique with various elements and challenges associated with the volume, location, terrain, weather conditions and safety concerns. SAWS is committed to continuous improvement of its processes and procedures for responding to SSOs. After a major SSO, (i.e., Public Notice) event, when warranted, upper management representing all Departments associated with the management of the SSO meet to review the procedures used and to discuss what worked and where improvements can be made in responding to and mitigating future SSOs.



## 12.0 SORP MAINTENANCE

### 12.1 Update SORP

As the SORP is revised, or field response SOPs have been changed, personnel shall be informed and training provided as necessary prior to the effective date of the field response changes.

### 12.2 Distribution and Availability of SORP

The current master copy of the SORP will be scanned and made available to all SAWS personnel via the SAWS internal website. Only the most current version will remain available.





### 13.0 CERTIFICATION

*I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering such information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.*

---

Jeffrey J. Haby, P.E.

Director – Sewer System Improvements

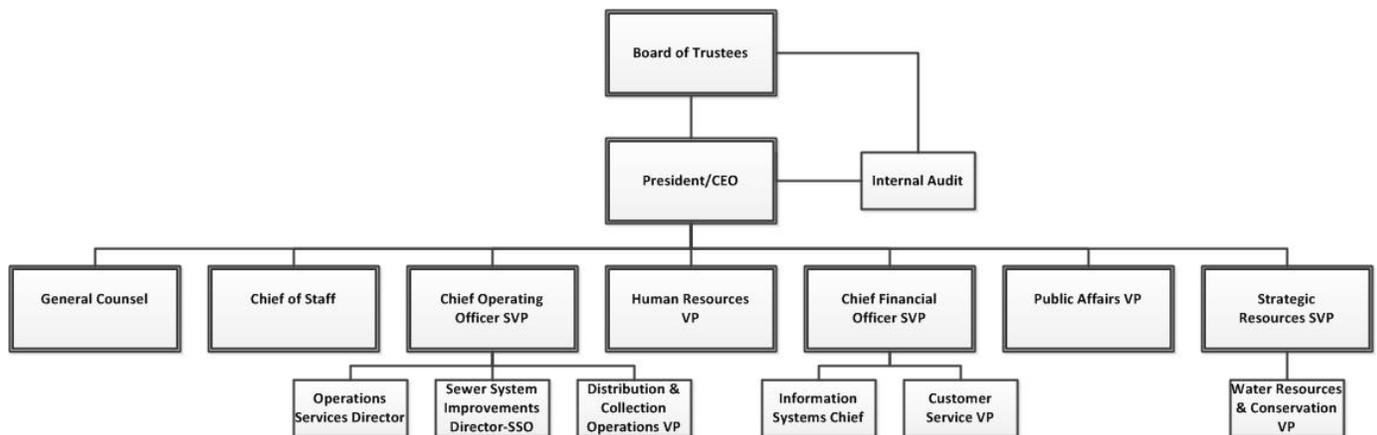
---

(Date)





**Appendix A**  
**SAWS Organizational Chart**



SAWS is governed by the SAWS Board of Trustees that includes the mayor of the City of San Antonio and six members appointed by the City Council.

- The President/CEO is responsible for overall management and leadership at SAWS. The President/CEO implements the policies set by the Board of Trustees to achieve SAWS' mission and goals. Also reporting to the Board of Trustees is the Chief of Internal Audit.
- The Chief of Staff supports Senior Vice Presidents and Vice Presidents (VPs) to make decisions and ensure that projects meet deadlines and groups are operating efficiently as well as responding to Board and CEO office matters.
- The Chief Operating Officer (COO) is responsible for operations related to the four core businesses at SAWS. The position oversees Operations, Operation Services, Distribution & Collection Operations and Production & Treatment Operations.
- The Human Resources VP is responsible for overseeing recruitment, benefits, staffing, employee relations, training and other human resources responsibilities at SAWS.
- The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is responsible for the overall financial management of the System, which includes Accounting, Financial Planning, Finance and Treasury, Purchasing and Supply functions. The Chief Financial Officer also has responsibility for the Information Services and Customer Service functions. The Information Services function delivers a broad spectrum of applications and technology services and support to all areas of the System. Customer Service is responsible for providing the maintenance of customer accounts as well as accurate and timely billing of System customers.
- The Public Affairs VP is in charge of external and internal relations for SAWS, which includes intergovernmental affairs and communications.
- The General Counsel provides legal advice, researches legal issues, drafts legal memoranda for the Board and SAWS and represents SAWS in matters with customers, regulators and business partners. The General Counsel also oversees the Contracting, Claims and Risk Management Departments.
- The Strategic Resources VP is responsible for infrastructure master planning, water resources, and engineering. This position oversees Engineering and Construction (development of CIP program) and Water Resources (water supply projects) and Conservation departments.

**Appendix B**  
**Consent Decree SORP Requirements**

13. Sewer Overflow Response Plan (“SORP”). No later than 150 days from the Date of Lodging of the Consent Decree, SAWS shall develop, submit to EPA for review and comment, and implement a SORP that is designed to accomplish the following goals:

- a. Respond to and halt SSOs as rapidly as technically feasible consistent with safety and legal requirements; **(See Sections 2.0 and 3.0)**
- b. Employ SSO mitigation measures whenever appropriate; **(See Section 6.0)**
- c. Implement appropriate measures to prevent SSO recurrence; **(See Section 11.0)**
- d. Incorporate in the SORP procedures for responding to SSOs and procedures to minimize the environmental impact and potential human health risk of SSOs. At a minimum, the SORP shall include the following:
  - i. A description of the actions SAWS will undertake to provide notice to the public (through the local news media or other means, including signs or barricades to restrict access) and to any applicable government authorities of the SSO from the WCTS when such notice is required by SAWS TPDES permits or applicable law; **(See Section 8.0)**
  - ii. A detailed description (including as appropriate the development of standard response procedures) to minimize the volume of untreated wastewater from the WCTS during an SSO event; **(See Section 7.0)**
  - iii. A detailed plan describing the standard operating procedures to be followed by SAWS personnel in responding to a Building/Private Property Backup, including:
    1. A description of SAWS response practices and methods for communicating with customers about: **(See Section 4.1)**
      - a. How to report Building/Private Property Backups; and
      - b. How to obtain clean-up support from SAWS, as warranted;
    2. The typical timeframe objectives for both initial response and completion of cleanup activities; **(See Section 4.2)** and
    3. The types of measures that may be taken by SAWS to cleanup Building/Private Property Backups found to be caused by conditions in SAWS WCTS, including, as warranted by specific circumstances,

*procedures necessary to disinfect and/or remove items potentially contaminated by Building/Private Property Backups, wet vacuuming or other removal of spillage, wiping floors and walls with cleaning solution and disinfectant, flushing out and disinfecting plumbing fixtures, carpet cleaning and/or replacement or other appropriate measures to disinfect and/or remove items potentially contaminated by Building/Private Property Backups. (See Section 4.3)*

- iv. *A description of the process by which measures to correct or repair conditions in the WCTS causing or contributing to Building/Private Property Backups are selected; (See Section 4.4)*
- v. *An inspection of each sewer pipe that experiences an SSO using CCTV, Pole Camera or other appropriate inspection methods as soon as practicable, but not later than forty-eight hours following the cessation of the SSO. In general, such inspection shall typically involve the first adjacent Pipe Segment upstream and downstream of the specific WCTS asset experiencing an SSO; (See Section 10.0)*
- vi. *A description of how SAWS will complete cleanup activities of SSOs greater than 10,000 gallons, including:*
  1. *Time frame for completion of SSO cleanup activities;*  
**(See Section 9.1)**
  2. *Photographic evidence that SSO cleanup is complete;*  
**(See Section 9.2)** *and*
  3. *Supervisor approval to confirm that the SSO cleanup is complete.*  
**(See Section 9.3)**
- vii. *A description of standard response procedures for SSOs that occur at Lift Stations or Force Mains. In the event that a repair at a Lift Station or Force Main may cause or lengthen the time of an SSO, the SORP shall provide a procedure for determining when a wastewater pump-around will be provided. (See Section 5.0)*

**Appendix C**  
**Applicable Definitions**

7. *Terms used in this Consent Decree that are defined in the CWA, or in regulations promulgated pursuant to the CWA, shall have the meanings assigned to them in the CWA or such regulations, unless otherwise provided in this Consent Decree. Whenever the terms set forth below are used in this Consent Decree, the following definitions shall apply:*

- a. *“Building/Private Property Backup” shall mean, for purposes of this Consent Decree, a wastewater backup into a building that is caused by blockages, malfunctions, or flow conditions in the WCTS. Building/Private Property Backup does not include wastewater backup into a building that is caused by a blockage or other malfunction of a Private Lateral or other piping or conveyance system that SAWS does not own or operate.*
- b. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP*
- c. *“Capacity Constraint” means those discrete components, or groups of components, of the WCTS that are determined by SAWS, consistent with the Capacity Program in Appendix D, to have verified capacity deficiency issues that have caused or significantly contributed to previous capacity-related SSOs due to wet weather events that are within design parameters; and/or, that are likely to cause or significantly contribute to future capacity-related SSOs due to wet weather events that are within design parameters. As described in Appendix D, potential Capacity Constraints include Priority 1 through 4 and may include Priority 5.*
- d. *“CCTV” shall mean closed circuit television.*
- e. *“City” shall mean the City of San Antonio, a Texas home rule city.*
- f. *“Clean Water Act” or “CWA” shall mean the Clean Water Act, formally entitled*

*the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387.*

- g. *“Consent Decree” or “Decree” shall mean this Consent Decree and all Appendices attached hereto (listed in Section XXIII (Integration/Appendices)).*
- h. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- i. *“Date of Lodging” or “Lodging” shall mean the date on which this Consent Decree is filed for lodging with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas.*
- j. *“Day” shall mean a calendar day unless expressly stated to be a business day. In computing any period of time under this Consent Decree, where the last day would fall on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period shall run until the close of business of the next business day.*
- k. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- l. *“EPA” shall mean the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any of its successor departments or agencies.*
- m. *“FOG” shall mean fats, oils, and grease.*
- n. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- o. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- p. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- q. *“Force Main” shall mean any pipe that receives and conveys, under pressure, wastewater from the discharge side of a pump. A Force Main is intended to convey wastewater under pressure.*
- r. *“Gravity Sewer Main” or “Gravity Sewer” shall mean a pipe that receives, contains and conveys wastewater not normally under pressure, but is*

*intended to flow unassisted under the influence of gravity.*

- s. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- t. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- u. *“I/I” shall mean the total quantity of water from inflow, infiltration, and rainfall induced infiltration without distinguishing the source.*
- v. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- w. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- x. *“Lift Station” shall mean facilities in the WCTS (not at the WWTPs) comprised of pumps which lift wastewater to a higher hydraulic elevation, including all related electrical, mechanical, and structural systems necessary to the operation of that lift station.*
- y. *“Paragraph” shall mean a portion of this Consent Decree identified by Arabic numerals.*
- z. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP*
- aa. *“Pipe Segment” shall mean the reach of Gravity Sewer Main pipe extending from manhole to manhole.*
- bb. *“Private Lateral” shall mean that portion of the collection system or sanitary sewer system, not owned by SAWS, used to convey wastewater from a building or buildings to that portion of the WCTS owned by SAWS.*
- cc. *“Remedial Measures” shall mean spot repairs, trenchless sewer rehabilitation, sewer replacement, repair or reconstruction, and any other appropriate WCTS improvement techniques for resolving condition and/or capacity deficiencies in a particular system asset or group of assets within the WCTS*

*that have caused or significantly contributed to previous SSOs; and/or, that are likely to cause or significantly contribute to the future occurrence of SSOs. Remedial Measures shall not include capital improvement projects implemented exclusively to provide sewer service for new development.*

- dd. *“SAWS” shall mean the San Antonio Water System, an agency of the City of San Antonio, Texas.*
- ee. *“Sanitary Sewer Overflow” or “SSO” shall mean, for purposes of this Consent Decree: 1) unpermitted discharges from SAWS WCTS to State water or waters of the United States from SAWS WCTS; and 2) any release of wastewater from SAWS WCTS to public or private property that does not reach State water or waters of the United States, including Building/Private Property Backups.*
- ff. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- gg. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- hh. *“State” shall mean the State of Texas.*
- ii. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- jj. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- kk. *“TCEQ” shall mean the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and any of its successor departments or agencies.*
- ll. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*
- mm. *“United States” shall mean the United States of America, acting on behalf of EPA.*
- nn. *“Wastewater Collection and Transmission System” or “WCTS” shall mean the wastewater collection, retention and transmission system, including all Force*

*Mains, Gravity Sewer Mains, Lift Stations, manholes and other appurtenances thereto which are owned by SAWS, including any new assets constructed under this Decree to resolve condition and/or capacity issues identified that have caused or significantly contributed to previous SSOs; and/or, that are likely to cause or significantly contribute to the future occurrence of SSOs.*

- oo. *“Wastewater Treatment Plant” or “WWTP” shall mean devices or systems used in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal wastewater. For purposes of this Consent Decree, this definition shall refer to following treatment facilities: the Leon Creek WWTP, the Medio Creek WWTP, the Salado Creek WWTP and the Dos Rios WWTP, and all components of such sewage treatment plants.*
- pp. *“Wet Weather-Related SSOs” shall mean historical SSOs identified by SAWS as capacity or I/I-related or that occurred during wet weather events.*
- qq. *Term defined in the CD, but not used in the SORP.*

Definitions applicable to the SORP and not defined in the Consent Decree include:

- “Root Cause Analysis” shall mean investigation performed by SAWS soon after an SSO incident to assign the most likely immediate cause of each SSO.
- “Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Procedures” shall mean guidelines for use by SAWS staff under typical operating conditions; SAWS staff may modify procedures as warranted based on actual conditions encountered and professional judgment.

**Appendix D**  
**Wastewater Spill Reporting Procedure**



## WASTEWATER SPILL REPORTING PROCEDURE

<b>Requirements:</b>	30 TAC 305.125(9); 30 TAC Chapter 319 Subchapter C; TCEQ Form No. TCEQ-0501: EA Chapter 713 Subchapter E
<b>Effective Date:</b>	03/19/04
<b>Revision #:</b>	3
<b>Revision Date:</b>	11/27/13

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Wastewater Spill Reporting Procedure is to:

- Identify technical information and requirements for reporting wastewater spills
- Provide guidance so that spills and releases are put in the proper category to facilitate reporting in conformance with the Emergency Management Operations Plan (EMOP). The SAWS Emergency Management Operations Plan (EMOP) is intended to serve as a capstone document for all emergency checklists and event specific contingency plans. Emergency checklists and contingency plans in Annex B of EMOP fulfill emergency response planning requirements under Title IV of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act, Public Law 107-188. The EMOP consists of a “core plan” outlining assumptions, concepts and responsibilities for planning, preparedness and response. Annexes with checklists, event specific contingency plans, maps and additional information, prepared by specific Departments and Divisions are components of the core plan, but distributed under separate cover by the responsible Department
- Identify responsibilities for various SAWS organizations
- Identify communication for customers, Contractors, outside agencies, and SAWS
- Provide a training tool for response to wastewater spills

### DEFINITIONS

**Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (EARZ)** - An area where the stratigraphic units constituting the Edwards Aquifer crop out, including the outcrops of geologic formations in proximity to the Edwards Aquifer where caves, sinkholes, faults, fractures, or other permeable features would create a potential for recharge from surface waters to groundwater into the Edwards Aquifer.

**Spill/SSO** – Occurs when wastewater from the wastewater collection system is inadvertently discharged into or adjacent to any water in the state at a location not permitted as an outfall.

**Water in the state** - Groundwater, lakes, bays, ponds, reservoirs, springs, rivers, streams, creeks, estuaries, marshes, inlets, canals, the Gulf of Mexico, and all other bodies of surface water, natural or artificial, including the beds and banks of all watercourses and bodies of surface water, that are wholly or partially inside or bordering the state or inside the jurisdiction of the state.

## **INITIAL REPORT AND INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES**

Wastewater spill is reported to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

### **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

The EOC is notified of a sewer related problem and will do the following as warranted:

1. Obtain the following information:
  - Name and phone number of caller
  - Address or closest address (intersection)
  - Location of manhole or sewer leak (street, alley, on the property, etc.)
  - Discharge route of spill (storm drain, creek, etc.)
2. Create a service request or work order.
3. Notify the appropriate Spill Investigation and Reporting Group (SIRG):
  - Distribution & Collection Operations
  - Production & Treatment Operations
  - Construction Inspections
  - Other
4. After the SIRG provides the EOC with an update, the EOC will notify on-call Resource Protection & Compliance (RPC) personnel and on-call SIRG Supervisor/Superintendent.
5. E-mail Situation Report to Water, Wastewater or Recycle Water Issues Group and Others as necessary.
6. Report the spill to the TCEQ Regional Office, 403-4050 within 24 hours after receiving the initial report of the release.

### **Spill Investigation and Reporting Group (SIRG)**

The SIRG will assign an Investigator.

Personnel investigating will:

1. Perform field investigation to identify and document extent of wastewater spill:
  - Time
  - Location (street address, nearest cross street, Ferguson Map Grid #, and Block Map #)
  - Estimated volume
  - Containment or if the water has reached a waterway
  - Ability of crew to control the spill and status to correct the situation
  - Waterway in proximity (if known)
  - Fish kill in affected waterways
2. Report information to the EOC.
3. Determine whether to initiate one of the following:
  - **Normal Notification**, see Normal Notification
  - **Public Notice of Spills**, spill adversely affects a public or private source of drinking water, 50,000 gallons or greater over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (EARZ) or Contributing Zone of the EARZ, or 100,000 gallons or greater

**REGULATORY AND COMMUNICATION NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES****Normal Notification:**

SIRG (Will do the following as warranted):

1. Stop the SSO and restore flow if at all possible
2. Determine the start and stop times
3. Determine the probable cause of the SSO
4. Estimate the SSO volume
5. Identify the receiving area (street, storm drain, etc.)
6. SIRG Management signs the "5-day" TCEQ Water Quality Noncompliance Notification Form (No. TCEQ-0501) after Proactive Planning prepares the report

**Resource Protection & Compliance Department**

1. Notifies as warranted:
  - San Antonio River Authority (if the San Antonio River or its tributaries are impacted)
  - Texas Parks & Wildlife (if there is a fish kill)
  - Metro Health Department
  - EAA (reportable quantity is 500 gallons)
  - Others as necessary, SAFD, SAPD, COSA Public Works
  - SAWS Laboratory
2. Provides "closure letter" as warranted, including field and lab analytical results.

**Proactive Planning**

1. Prepares a "5-day" TCEQ Water Quality Noncompliance Notification Form (No. TCEQ-0501) and submits within five (5) days of receiving the initial report of the release. Then the following is done:
  - Fax signed report to TCEQ at 545-4329
  - E-mail signed report to designated SAWS staff
  - Original to Proactive Planning file

**Public Notice of Spills Notification:****SIRG**

1. Designates an "Incident Commander" who may provide information to SAW Executives or Public Relations Department as warranted.
2. Refer to SIRG Normal Notification Steps 1 – 5.
3. Determine course of action based on input from the RPC Department.
4. SIRG Management signs the "5-day" TCEQ Water Quality Noncompliance Notification Form (No. TCEQ-0501).

**Sewer System Improvements or Maintenance Planning**

1. Notifies:
  - Chief Operating Officer (COO) Senior Vice-President
  - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality immediately but no later than 24 hours
  - Others as necessary, SAFD, SAPD, COSA Public Works, EAA
2. Prepares the Notice of Spill From a Wastewater Facility (30 TAC Chapter 319, Appendix D).
3. Transmits the Notice of Spill From a Wastewater Facility by fax or e-mail to the SIRG and COO for review and/or revision.

4. Transmits the Notice of Spill From a Wastewater Facility by e-mail, fax, or hand delivery to the Public Relations Department.
5. Transmits the Notice of Spill From a Wastewater Facility to TCEQ as soon as possible, or in no case later than 24 hours after receiving the initial report of the release.
6. Coordinates a Lessons Learned to critique the Public Notice event.

#### **Resource Protection & Compliance Department**

1. Notifies as warranted:
  - San Antonio River Authority (if the San Antonio River or its tributaries are impacted)
  - Texas Parks & Wildlife (if there is a fish kill)
  - Metro Health Department
  - EAA (reportable quantity is 500 gallons)
  - Others as necessary, SAFD, SAPD, COSA Public Works
  - SAWS Laboratory
2. Provides “closure letter” for Public Notice events, including field and lab analytical results.

#### **Public Relations Department**

1. Transmits the Notice of Spill From a Wastewater Facility to “appropriate local government officials and local media” (Note: no later than 24 hours after notification of spill).
2. Develops and distributes additional media release(s) as necessary.
3. Reports media notifications to the EOC for the Incident Log and relaying to the field.

#### **Proactive Planning**

1. Prepares a “5-day” TCEQ Water Quality Noncompliance Notification Form (No. TCEQ-0501) and submits within five (5) days of receiving the initial report of the release. Then the following is done:
  - Fax signed report to TCEQ at 545-4329
  - E-mail signed report to designated SAWS staff
  - Original to Proactive Planning file

**Appendix E**  
**Sanitary Sewer Overflow Response Procedure**



## SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW (SSO) RESPONSE PROCEDURE

**Effective Date:** 03/15/09

**Revision #:** 2

**Revision Date:** 11/26/13

### Purpose

The purpose of this SSO Response Procedure is to:

- Provide guidelines to SAWS staff responding to an SSO
- Report protocol to notify identified SAWS departments
- Implement best action for SSO volume minimization
- Provide guidelines on volume estimation and cleanup efforts

EOC notifies SAWS staff of SSO for Site Assessment:

1. Arrive at SSO location and visually make an initial assessment of the estimated spill rate, volume and impact area and determine whether the spill is continuing to travel downstream.
2. If the impact area is contained or you have already requested Service Center assistance, proceed with attempting to open the line. Identify the impact area (e.g. alley, creek bed, drainage culvert, easement, ground, storm drain, street).
3. Relay initial information to the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). EOC will contact others as needed or requested, such as a Superintendent, a Service Center crew and Resource Protection & Compliance (RPC) personnel. If the spill continues to flow downstream, a Service Center crew may be needed to build an earthen dam. For smaller SSOs, if you are able to open the line, stop the SSO and restore normal flow, proceed with clean-up and disinfection as is typical or per RPC's guidance (if applicable).
4. For larger SSOs, if you are able to open the line, stop the SSO and restore normal flow and contact your Superintendent, or a Service Center to mobilize pumping equipment. Then, proceed with clean-up and disinfection as is typical or per RPC's guidance (if applicable).
5. If you are unable to open the line or restore normal flow, contact your Superintendent (if on duty), a Service Center Lead Foreman (after daytime hours), or the EOC to make contact with others to arrange for a Service Center to set up by-pass pumping and possibly dig up the blockage and/or collapsed pipe.
6. Upon completion of clean-up or establishing containment, report the SSO volume to the EOC based one of the following 3 estimation methods:
  - Method 1: Visual Estimate
  - Method 2: Measured Volume
  - Method 3: Duration of Flow Rate
7. The methods of volume estimation used and the estimated volume should be discussed with your Superintendent if he/she are on duty prior to reporting to the EOC. If not on duty, report the estimated volume to the EOC and email your Superintendent the methods and volumes for follow-up on the following day.
8. Document response in Hansen CMMS (e.g. location, extent of SSO, resources employed)



## SEWER LATERAL STOPPAGE OR BACKUP PROCEDURE

Effective Date: 03/15/09

Revision #: 2

Revision Date: 11/26/13

### Purpose

The purpose of this Sewer Lateral Stoppage or Backup Procedure is to:

- Provide guidelines to SAWS staff responding to a customer complaint for a sewer lateral stoppage or backup into the residence
- Provide guidelines to SAWS staff on procedure of assessing the complaint and providing literature to the customer about SAWS process for lateral reimbursement

EOC notifies SAWS staff of SSO for investigation:

1. Upon determining that the blockage is not in the main, present the customer with a copy of the Claim Form/Letter.
2. The customer hires a plumber to attempt to relieve the blockage and televise the lateral.
3. If, despite SAWS' initial investigation and determination, the blockage is found to be in SAWS' sewer pipe, SAWS will reimburse the customer for their plumber's fees.

**Appendix F**  
**Water Quality Sampling:**  
**Standard Operating Procedures for On Call Response**



## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR ON-CALL RESPONSE**

PROCEDURE NUMBER:   1  

REVISION NUMBER:   5  

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 1, 2005

REVISION DATE: September 26, 2011

ORIGINATOR: Martin Miller, Industrial Compliance Supervisor

REVISED: Martin Miller, Industrial Compliance Supervisor

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ON-CALL DUTY

APPLICATION: RESOURCE PROTECTION & COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

**All procedures should be reviewed at least annually.**

1.

The Resource Protection & Compliance Department (RPC) is responsible for the implementation of a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program to achieve the goal of controlling the quality of storm water; which is discharged from the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) into the surface waters in the State. The quality of the water discharged into the surface waters in the State from the MS4 can be adversely affected by the introduction of potentially hazardous materials caused by either an accidental spill or an illegal dumping situation. As part of the Storm Water Management Plan SAWS responsibilities include the implementation of several programs that are covered by these procedures. Specifically the Illicit Discharge and Improper Disposal Program include responsibilities to investigate non-storm water discharges. The On-Call duty is a task assigned by the On-call Supervisor to the Environmental Protection Specialist (EPS) position. The program is in place to investigate and assess the impact of any potentially hazardous materials on the quality of the waters of the State.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

One of the five RPC Supervisors within the RPC Department is assigned on a rotating basis, to cover a weekly shift to respond to calls from the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) after 5 pm and before 7 am. In addition an EPS is to be available to respond to situations or emergencies. On-Call duty duration is scheduled to last one week (7days), from Monday (7:00 AM). until the next Monday morning (7:00 AM). The EPS will serve On-Call duty based on a prearranged schedule. The direct supervisor and the on-call supervisor must approve all changes to the schedule. Situations or emergencies that arise during the normal work hours will be assigned to an EPS based on the location and nature of the incident by the Industrial Compliance Supervisor.

Exempt/Non-Exempt employees who are On-Call are required to be available to respond to situations or emergencies while they are off duty. Employees who are On-Call must answer the call-in notification (telephone call) within thirty minutes of receiving the message from the Supervisor or EOC. Employees must arrive at the on call situation or emergency within one hour. Employees who are On-Call are subject to corrective action for failing to be available or failing to respond to an On Call situation or emergency within designated response times. See Employee Handbook for all details.

All nonsupervisory employees placed On-Call for a week (7 days) will receive 8 hours pay for the work week which will be considered non-productive time. Employees placed On-Call for less than a week are entitled to 1 hour On-Call pay for each day during the week and 1.5 hours for weekends.

To be eligible for On-Call pay, an employee should have been at work for his/her entire regularly scheduled shift. Incremental time-off taken during the week is at the discretion of management. Employees who are placed On-Call on an official SAWS Holiday will receive pay as outlined in the Employee Handbook. This will be considered non-productive time and will not be used in calculating overtime pay.

In addition to the compensation received as a result of being On-Call, employees responding to a situation or emergency, or who are required to work, will be compensated a minimum of two (2) hours, for the time required to be at work or to handle the situation. Hours worked, while On-Call, start from the time an employee answers the call in notification and stops when the assignment is completed. An assignment is considered complete when the employee contacts his/her supervisor, swipes out if a time clock is available, notifies the dispatcher or uses any other method deemed workable by the department.

Payment for hours worked while On-Call will be subject to the regular overtime rules. A non-exempt employee, who is called in to work, will be paid one and one-half (1-1/2) times their regular hourly wage for any time worked over forty

(40) productive hours per week. See *Overtime Pay in the appropriate section of the Employee Handbook for more detail*. An exempt employee, who is called in to work, will earn “Earned Time Off” (ETO) and must track the information in a spreadsheet. Using ETO requires attachment of time earned details for payroll purposes.

## **PROCEDURES**

The Supervisor will receive notification from the SAWS EOC to respond to a situation. After receiving the notification the Supervisor may notify the EPS for assistance or follow up.

Equipment needed to respond should include:

- Laptop
- Hach Field Test Kit
- Chemetrics Ammonia test kit
- Shovel, pick, sledge hammer, measuring wheel, hand tools (hammer, crescent wrench, fire hydrant wrench, screwdrivers, and meter box key).
- Sample bottles – as required in both quantity and type for the situation (at least twelve 1 liters glass bottles and 6 fecal sample containers).
- Extension pole (with hook and/or bottle holder)
- Spill Response equipment such as oil booms (in various sizes), pillows or pads and other absorbent material.
- SAWS Chain of Custody lab forms
- Camera (with charged batteries and sufficient storage space or film)
- D.O. Meter and pH meter both calibrated and fully operational (with any necessary spare batteries, membranes, calibration standards, and other necessary parts).
  - Meters must be properly calibrated at the beginning of shift, and as needed.
- PPE and safety equipment such as hardhat, safety glasses, earplugs, safety vest, Nitrile gloves, flashlight, cones, etc.

Upon arriving on site park the SAWS vehicle in an appropriate location so that you are not in a “hot zone” and so that you can get out of the site (e.g. It is difficult to get a fire truck or police car to move out of your way once they park). Staff should wear the proper safety equipment (at a minimum the PPE should include: a safety vest, safety shoes and a hard hat). Proper eye and ear protection and gloves for sampling should be readily available for use.

Make sure and identify yourself to the SAWS Supervisor or Incident Commander and state the purpose of your being on site. Wear your SAWS identification and present proper SAWS credentials if asked (take business cards with you). You should identify and note any pertinent contacts (including phone numbers) and

when possible, the responsible parties involved. For example taking photos of truck door logos and license plates or getting business cards will assist with identification later when doing reports. Safety should always be a priority issue while at the site.

Interaction with the contacts or responsible parties should be friendly and professional. If needed, a brief explanation of the local requirements and ordinances should be made up front (you should get contact information to send information such as a copy of any applicable ordinances). During the investigation, carry out all of the questioning and other activities as politely as possible. Be inquisitive without being rude; if you see something that is improper; be tactful in finding out more information. The company representative may be concerned with "Human health and safety" first and the environment may be secondary. The EPS should make notes of the site, including the location of any equipment involved and nearby drainage channels that may be impacted by the situation and provide photo documentation of them. The EPS can gather information by interviewing the responsible party or on site contacts. Information on containment should be shared with the Incident Commander or his representative. Be sure and investigate the location that the discharge will end up at. For example if spill enters a storm drain inlet then you need to find the outfall location at the Storm Sewer.

#### SSO INCIDENT:

When responding to an internal sanitary sewer spill, there are additional responsibilities that RPC needs to perform. A flow chart attached that can be used to provide direction on the incident. It is also located at: "I:\Resource Compliance\SW Complaints\Picture file\spill response procedures"

RPC Supervisor will be contacted by the EOC to respond to the situation. RPC primary duties include assessing the situation with the D&C management to determine the extent of the spill and to develop a plan of action. If the discharge is to a flowing body of water there are sampling requirements outlined on the flow chart that should be followed. Discharge quantity must also be determined. This should be done in conjunction with D&C to report a realistic number based on facts not speculation. Document method used to determine this quantity. Refer to the Wastewater Spill Reporting Procedures to see notes concerning the different reporting requirements for large spills and those on the EARZ. Staff should assist with measurement of spill or make a determination by sampling using Ammonia test kits to determine the extent of SSO. RPC should also document the spill and clean up using photos, field measurements and notes. A summary power point should be made for large spills to document all of the information for future reference or enforcement. Copy should be stored on I drive file under "SW Complaints".

Site cleanup verification is also within RPC responsibility. Staff should revisit the

site to document the cleanup. Site should not have any solids, sewer should be removed and the site should not smell of sewer. D&C crews often use HTH during the cleanup unless the area is directly adjacent to a waterbody. The use of HTH should be minimal to do the job. HTH is an oxidizer as well as a disinfectant and can have a detrimental impact on biological life. It can also significantly reduce Dissolved Oxygen levels in a stream or pond.

The EPS should complete an investigation form; which should include all contact and responsible party information. An entry in the appropriate database (SW Complaint) should also be made, as well as photo documentation stored in the appropriate folder on the "I" Drive. The completed investigation form will be forwarded to the appropriate Supervisor. If samples were taken on site, include the chain of custody and the lab results with the photos on the "I" Drive.

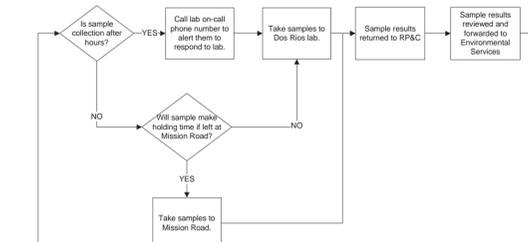
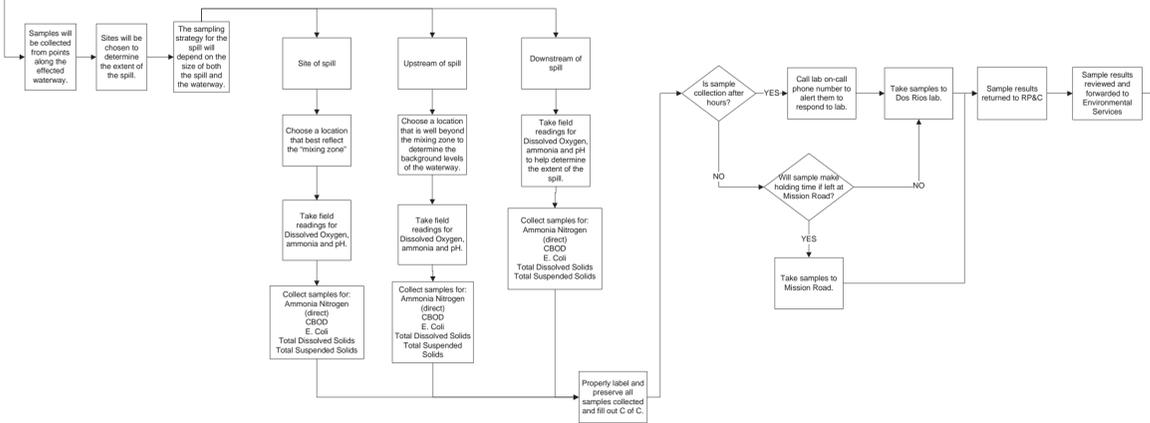
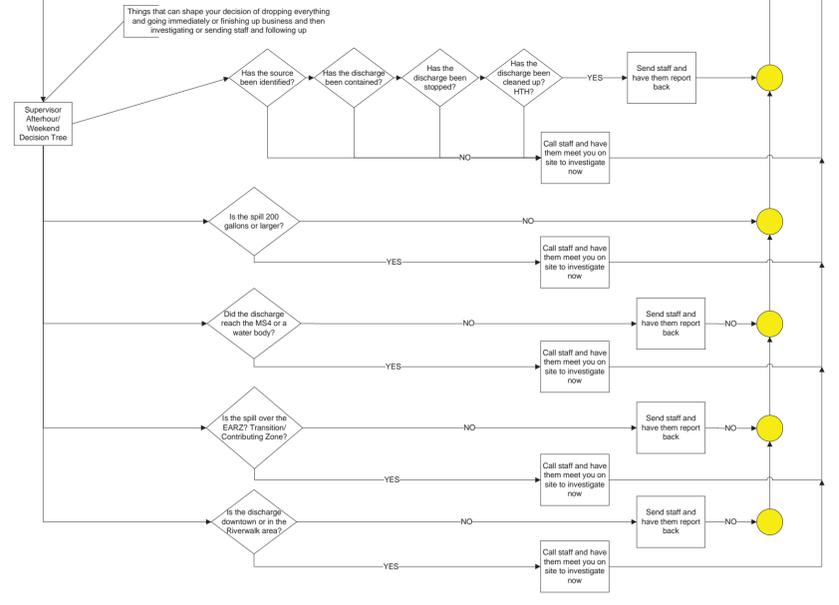
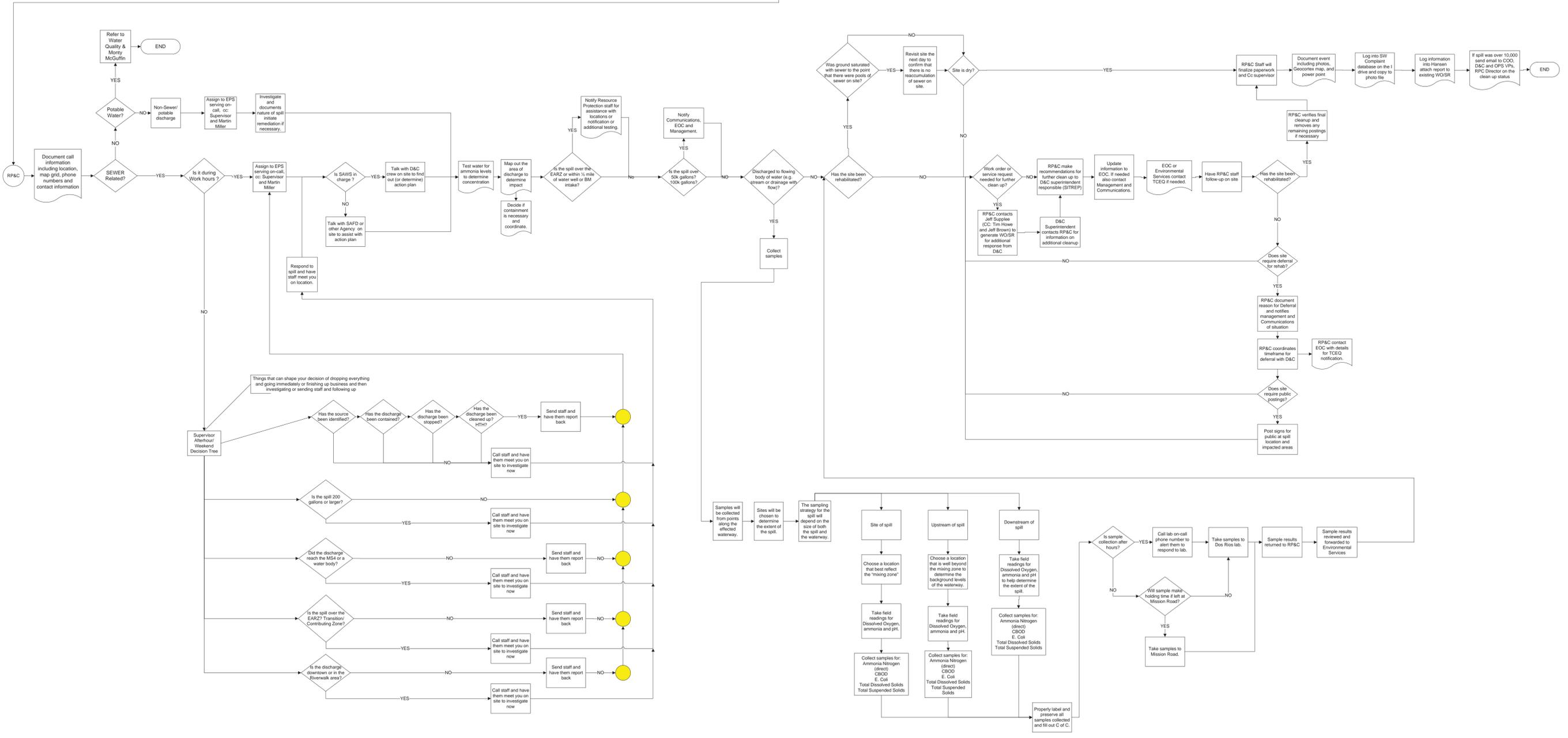
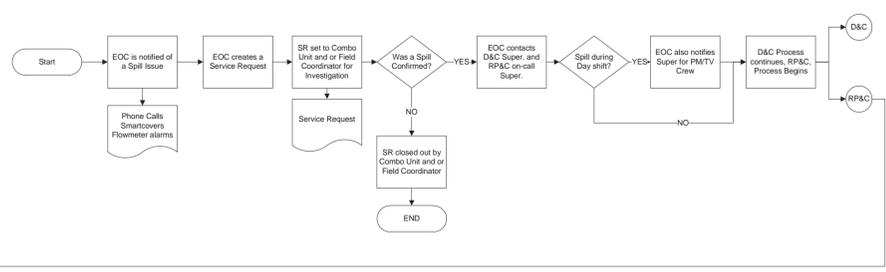
Based on the situation (see flow chart), the Supervisor will determine if the site will require continuous monitoring and if samples are taken. If the need arises and samples are taken the lab needs to be contacted. The properly labeled samples will then be taken to the SAWS lab at Dos Rios or Mission Road (use flow chart for decision on locations and where to take the samples when complete).

## **SAFETY**

On-Call Duty investigations are often carried out in hazardous areas. While working within the area, always observe safety rules and regulations. Wear hardhats, safety glasses and protective clothing as required. A beacon is required on all TXDOT project sites. Hard hats and safety vests are required on all SAWS and City of San Antonio construction project sites. Entry into a "HOT ZONE" is prohibited. Entry into a "Confined Space" should not be made without following SAWS policies and procedures for confined space entry.

# Spill / On-call Decision Flow Chart

## Resource Protection & Compliance



# San Antonio Water System

## WASTEWATER SPILL Sample Management Plan

### MATRIX:

#### Surface water

All samples under this sample management plan will be storm water or surface water contaminated with domestic sewage flow from a failure in a municipal collection system. Additionally, there may be one or more samples collected that represent storm water or surface water that has not been impaired or influenced by domestic sewage flow.

### SAMPLE SITE:

Samples will be collected from monitoring points located along an affected waterway. Sites will be chosen with an objective of determining the extent of the impairment relative to the storm water or surface water that has not been influenced by the spill. At minimum, sample sites will be chosen in an area located upstream from the influence of domestic sewage and immediately downstream of the impairment. Additionally, other sample sites may be selected where other fresh water flow enters the impaired stream to evaluate the impact of this confluence. Resource Protection & Compliance staff responding to the incident will determine the extent of sample sites. The sampling strategy for the wastewater spill will depend upon the size of the spill and the time for repair.

### PARAMETERS, METHODS, SAMPLE CONTAINERS, PRESERVATIVES and HOLDING TIMES:

Parameter	Test Code	Method	Sample Container	Preservative	Maximum Holding Time
Ammonia Nitrogen (Direct) (mg/l)	1. ADIR	EPA 350.1	250ml HDPE	Cool 4°C, H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> to pH < 2	28 days
Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/l)	2. CBOD5	SM 18 5210B	1000ml HDPE	Cool 4°C	48 hours
Dissolved Oxygen	3. fDO	EPA 360.1	100ml HDPE	None	Immediately
Fecal Coliform	4. FCOL	SM 18 9222D	100ml HDPE (Sterile)	Cool 4°C	8 hours
E. Coli	5. ECOL	SM 9223 B	100ml HDPE	Cool 4°C	8 hours

pH (S.U.)	<b>6.      fpH</b>	EPA 150.1	(Sterile) 100ml HDPE	None	Immediately
Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)	<b>7.      TDS</b>	EPA 160.1	100ml HDPE	Cool 4°C	7 days
Total Suspended Solids (mg/l)	<b>8.      TSS</b>	EPA 2540 D	500ml HDPE	Cool 4°C	7 days
Turbidity	<b>9.      TRB</b>	EPA 180.1	100ml HDPE	Cool 4°C	48 hours

### SAMPLING TECHNIQUE:

Analysis and collection of samples shall be done in accordance with the methods specified in 40 CFR Part 136. Where an approved Part 136 method does not exist or the method requires techniques that cannot be achieved, any available method may be used unless a particular method or criteria for method selection (such as sensitivity) has been specified.

All parameters will be analyzed from sample aliquots collected using grab technique.

### SAMPLING EQUIPMENT:

#### PRIMARY EQUIPMENT

Orion 210A pH meter or equivalent (w/ all necessary calibration solutions)  
Thermometer  
Portable Dissolved Oxygen meter either an Orion 810A+ or equivalent.

#### MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT

Sample Containers  
Sample labels  
Chain-Of-Custody Forms  
Ice Chest w/ ice to preserve samples  
Preservatives (as needed)  
Permanent markers

All field analytical equipment to be field calibrated unless noted.

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

- **NOTE:** Additional PPE may be required dependent on sample site assessment. **It is the responsibility of the sampling personnel to determine the safety requirements of each site. Sampling personnel are obligated to discontinue sampling at any time their safety cannot be assured.**

Safety boots (per SAWS specs.)  
 Safety glasses (per SAWS specs.)  
 Drinking water  
 (optional)

Nitrile Gloves (powder free, 8ml)  
 Safety Vest (per SAWS specs.)  
 Sunscreen / Bug Spray (optional)\*

Leather gloves  
 Hand sanitizing gel  
 Hat & Rain gear

\* To be applied away from sampling equipment, area, and bottles.

## SAMPLING SCENARIO:

Begin paperwork for sampling event – chain of custody form, etc.

Collect grab samples

Prepare labels for the sample containers

Fill sample containers using proper technique for laboratory testing

Place all samples for laboratory analysis into ice chest for cooling to 4 °C

Enter sampling data onto the Chain-of-Custody Form including all field analysis results

Assist with site demobilization (packing up the equipment)

Calibrate Field Equipment

Collect field readings on DO and pH

Place label on sample bottles

Add preservatives as required

## SAMPLE QUALITY ASSURANCE/QUALITY CONTROL:

All QA/QC samples will be collected and analyzed in accordance with methods specified in 40 CFR 136. Quality Control (QC) is used when collecting samples for laboratory analysis. The following QC samples are required.

### Reagent Blanks

These types of QC samples are used to determine that chemical preservatives added to the samples are free of contamination. Reagent blanks are collected and analyzed at a frequency of one per lot number.

### Rinseate Blanks

These types of QC samples are used only when auto-samplers or other devices are used to collect samples. Rinseate blanks are collected and analyzed for the parameters included in the “Parameters” section of this plan.

### Field Duplicate Samples

This type of QC sample provides a check of sampling equipment and the technique used.

### Split Samples

- This type of QC sample is used to check the analytical procedures used by a laboratory, **and generally only when requested by the operator of the MS4.**

The laboratory will run duplicates and spikes as recommended by laboratory protocol.

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY/ANALYTICAL REPORTS:**

The chain of custody (COC) will indicate the individual(s) that will receive final analytical reports. All field analysis shall be recorded on the COC and shall be entered into a database maintained at the direction of laboratory staff.

**SAMPLING PERSONNEL:** Resource Protection & Compliance Staff

**SAMPLE PLAN ACCEPTANCE:**

Supervisor, Construction Stormwater	Date
Martin Miller – Supervisor, Industry Compliance	Date
Lee Sarate– Supervisor, Environmental Compliance	Date
Mike Barr – Supervisor, Aquifer Protection & Evaluation	Date
Monty McGuffin – Supervisor, Groundwater Resource Protection	Date
Anna Ramos-Polanco – Laboratory Manager	Date

**Appendix G**  
**Letter to Customer**



Dear Customer:

We have received a service call for a sewer lateral stoppage or backup at this address. To help serve you better, we are providing you this outline of San Antonio Water System's policies and procedures to assist you in achieving a faster repair.

Our crew has inspected the sewer main line in the street/alley/easement and should have notified you of the results. If the main line had a stoppage, we will clear the main line and make any necessary repairs.

If we found the sewer main line clear, then the problem is probably in the lateral yard piping leading from your home. We recommend that you hire a licensed plumber to locate the problem with electronic locating equipment and clear the line. If the lateral yard piping requires repair, then we recommend that you obtain price estimates from a licensed plumber for the repair work. If the plumber identifies the location of the problem to be in your lateral yard piping leading from your building/home to the property line, SAWS cannot reimburse you for the plumber's work to clear or repair your line. If you have encountered a sewage spill in your home, then you should immediately review your homeowners' insurance policy and contact your agent.

If despite SAWS inspection, the plumber determines that the problem is located beyond the property line, in the public right-of-way, street or alley, then the plumber must electronically locate the lateral, mark the location of the obstruction with green paint and contact our Emergency Services Section at 704-SAWS (704-7297). If we determine that it is in fact SAWS' responsibility, then we will place a high priority on making the repair. The repair will require that other utilities such as electric, gas, telephone, etc. mark the location of their lines prior to our digging. Within 4-6 weeks you will be reimbursed for the plumber's normal and customary charges for the work. SAWS will only reimburse for work performed by a licensed plumber. Please mail your receipts to:

San Antonio Water System  
Attn: Sewer Lateral Reimbursement Program/Tommy Melzow  
3930 E. Houston  
San Antonio, TX 78220

We are working hard to insure your satisfaction. If you have any questions or wish to make any comments please contact our Emergency Services Section at 704-SAWS (704-7297) and they will have a SAWS representative contact you as soon as possible.

Sincerely, ..

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Brown, Director  
Distribution and Collection Department

---

#### **NOTICE TO PLUMBERS**

Before you start any work, please provide an estimate to the customer. In order for the customer to be reimbursed, the break must be in the public right-of-way/street or alley. SAWS will only reimburse the customer for a plumber's normal and customary charges related to electronically pinpointing the location of the problem. Reimbursements will not be approved for improvements to the property such as new cleanouts, etc. If we excavate and cannot find the break, we will contact you at that time. Plumbers that fail to respond or properly locate the break are subject to a time and materials charge.



Estimado cliente:

Se nos ha notificado que la cloaca lateral de esta dirección está obstruida o desbordándose. Con el fin de brindarle mejor atención, le estamos proporcionando este resumen de las normas y procedimientos del San Antonio Water System que lo ayudarán a obtener una reparación más rápida.

Nuestro equipo de inspectores ya habrán revisado la cloaca maestra en la calle, callejón, o servidumbre de paso, y ya le habrán notificado de los resultados. Si está obstruida, quitaremos la obstrucción y haremos las reparaciones necesarias.

Si determinamos que la cloaca maestra no está obstruida, entonces es probable que el problema está en la cloaca lateral que sale de su casa y conecta con la maestra. Le recomendamos que contrate a un plomero autorizado para que emplee equipos electrónicos para localizar el problema y desatascar la cloaca. Si hace falta reparar la cloaca lateral, entonces le recomendamos que obtenga presupuestos de plomeros autorizados para la reparación. Si el plomero determina que el problema se encuentra en el tramo de cloaca lateral entre su casa o edificio y donde termina su propiedad, SAWS no podrá reembolsarle los gastos ni de desatascar ni de reparar la cloaca. Si ha advertido un derrame de aguas cloacales en su casa, deberá revisar de inmediato su póliza de seguro residencial y comunicarse con su agente de seguros.

A pesar de la inspección hecha por SAWS, si el plomero determina que el problema se encuentra más allá de su propiedad, ya sea en los derechos de la propiedad pública, en una servidumbre de paso, calle, o callejón, deberá localizar la cloaca lateral electrónicamente, marcar con pintura verde la ubicación de la brecha, y comunicarse con la Sección de Servicios de SAWS. El número de teléfono de la Sección de Servicios es 704-7297. Después que se comunique, si determinamos que la reparación es la responsabilidad de SAWS, entonces le asignaremos la más alta prioridad a la reparación, lo que requerirá que otras compañías de servicio público, como electricidad, gas, teléfono, etc., marquen la ubicación de sus cables y tuberías antes de poder nosotros excavar. Le reembolsaremos los gastos normales y usuales de un plomero autorizado para el trabajo. Por favor, envíe sus recibos a:

San Antonio Water System  
 Attn: Lateral Reimbursement Program/Tommy Melzow  
 3930 E. Houston  
 San Antonio, TX 78220

Nos estamos esmerando por asegurarnos de su satisfacción. Si tiene alguna duda o comentario, por favor que se comunique con nuestra Sección de Servicios de Emergencia al 704-SAWS (704-7297), quienes harán que un representante de SAWS se comunique con usted lo más pronto posible.

Muy atentamente,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ing. Jeff Brown, Director  
 Departamento de Distribución y Colección

-----

#### AVISO A LOS PLOMEROS:

Antes de empezar cualquier trabajo, por favor entregue un estimado del costo al cliente. Para que podamos reembolsar al cliente, la brecha deberá estar en los derechos de la propiedad pública, en la servidumbre de paso, calle, o callejón. Por lo regular, la cloaca lateral entre la cloaca maestra y la propiedad del cliente pertenece a SAWS. SAWS reembolsará al cliente únicamente los costos normales y usuales de plomero por localizar electrónicamente la ubicación exacta del problema. No se reembolsarán obras de renovación o rectificación, como nuevas bocas de limpieza, etc. Si excavamos sin poder encontrar la brecha, lo llamaremos. A los plomeros que no respondan o no localicen las brechas debidamente se les cobrará la mano de obra y los materiales.

**Appendix H**  
**Claims Letter/Form**



**SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM**

Dear Customer:

In the event you feel you have incurred an injury and/or property damages due to work performed/or failed to have performed by the San Antonio Water System, you will need to file your written notice of claim within 90 days as per the City of San Antonio Charter. Please complete the attached form in its entirety and return to:

San Antonio Water System  
Claims Administration  
P.O. Box 2449  
San Antonio, Texas 78298

Please attach any documentation you wish the San Antonio Water System to consider in order to support your claim for damages (i.e. estimates, pictures, diagrams, bills, receipts, etc.).

**The San Antonio Water System cannot initiate its investigation until we have written notice of your claim.**

The San Antonio Water System recommends that if you have insurance coverage for your damaged property, you should also notify your insurance company when you send your notice of damages to the San Antonio Water System. Your insurance company may be an immediate source of assistance to you for your loss. Do not wait for someone to look at the damages, it is important that cleanup efforts are started as soon as safely possible. This will prevent additional damages.

**San Antonio Water System must complete its investigation to determine legal liability to base its settlement for damages or denial of the such.**

Should you have any additional questions, please call Claims Administration at (210) 233-3376 Monday - Friday during business hours – 8:00am – 5:00pm.

---

FN076-5 (rev 07/03)



NOTICE OF CLAIM AGAINST SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM

PERSONAL INJURY-PROPERTY DAMAGE

FILE THIS CLAIM FOR AN INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE WITH:

San Antonio Water System  
Claims Administration  
P.O. Box 2449  
San Antonio, Texas 78298  
Fax: (210) 233-4152

(Please Print or Type)

Claimant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

If known, the TOTAL amount of your claim against SAWS is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Describe in your own words WHERE, WHEN, and HOW the damage or injury occurred. Attach additional pages if necessary. Give names and addresses of others involved and/or witnesses, if known.

LOCATION (Please be specific):

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF LOSS: \_\_\_\_\_ APROXIMATE TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ (A.M) (P.M.)

POLICE CASE # (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF HOW DAMAGE OR INJURY OCCURRED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE:

(Attach good copies of all medical reports, medical bills and/or estimates of damages regarding this loss):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. \_\_\_\_\_  
Claimant's Signature Date

Section 150 – Liability of the City and Limitations Thereon:

“Before the City (SAWS) shall be liable for damages for the death or personal injuries of any person or for damage to or destruction of property of any kind, the person injured, if living, or his representatives, if dead, or the owner of the property injured or destroyed, shall give the City Manager or the City Clerk notice in writing of such death, injury, or destruction within ninety (90) days after same has been sustained, stating in such written notice when, where, and how the death, injury or destruction occurred, and the apparent extent of such injury, and the amount of damages sustained, provided, however, that in no event shall the City (SAWS) be liable in damages to anyone on account of any defect in, obstruction, on or anything else in connection with any sidewalk in the City (SAWS), and provided further, that in order to hold the City (SAWS) liable in damages to anyone on account of any injury caused by any defect in, obstruction on, or anything else in connection with any street, alley, or plaza, bridge, riverbank, water course, or any public way, it must be shown that the City Manager, a member of the Council or some person having superintendence or control of the work for the City (SAWS), had actual knowledge or actual notice of such defect, obstruction or other thing for a sufficient length of time before such injury was received, to have remedied or guarded against such condition of the street, alley or plaza before the injury was received.”

NOTE: Once your claim is received, it will be investigated by Claims Administration. Should you have any questions regarding your claim, please contact:

Claims Administration  
SAWS  
P.O. Box 2449  
San Antonio, TX 78298  
(210) 233-3376

**Appendix I**  
**Lift Station and Force Main SSO Response Plans**



## SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW (SSO) RESPONSE PLAN FOR LIFT STATIONS

**Effective Date:** 11/26/13

**Revision #:** 0

**Revision Date:** N/A

### Sewer Overflow Response Plan for Lift Stations

**Purpose:** To standardize a general response plan for sewer overflows at Lift Stations.

**Scope:** This procedure applies to all personnel involved in the operation and maintenance of sanitary sewer Lift Stations, as well as personnel in the Distribution and Collection, Construction Inspections Departments who are involved in the response to sewer overflows in Lift Stations.

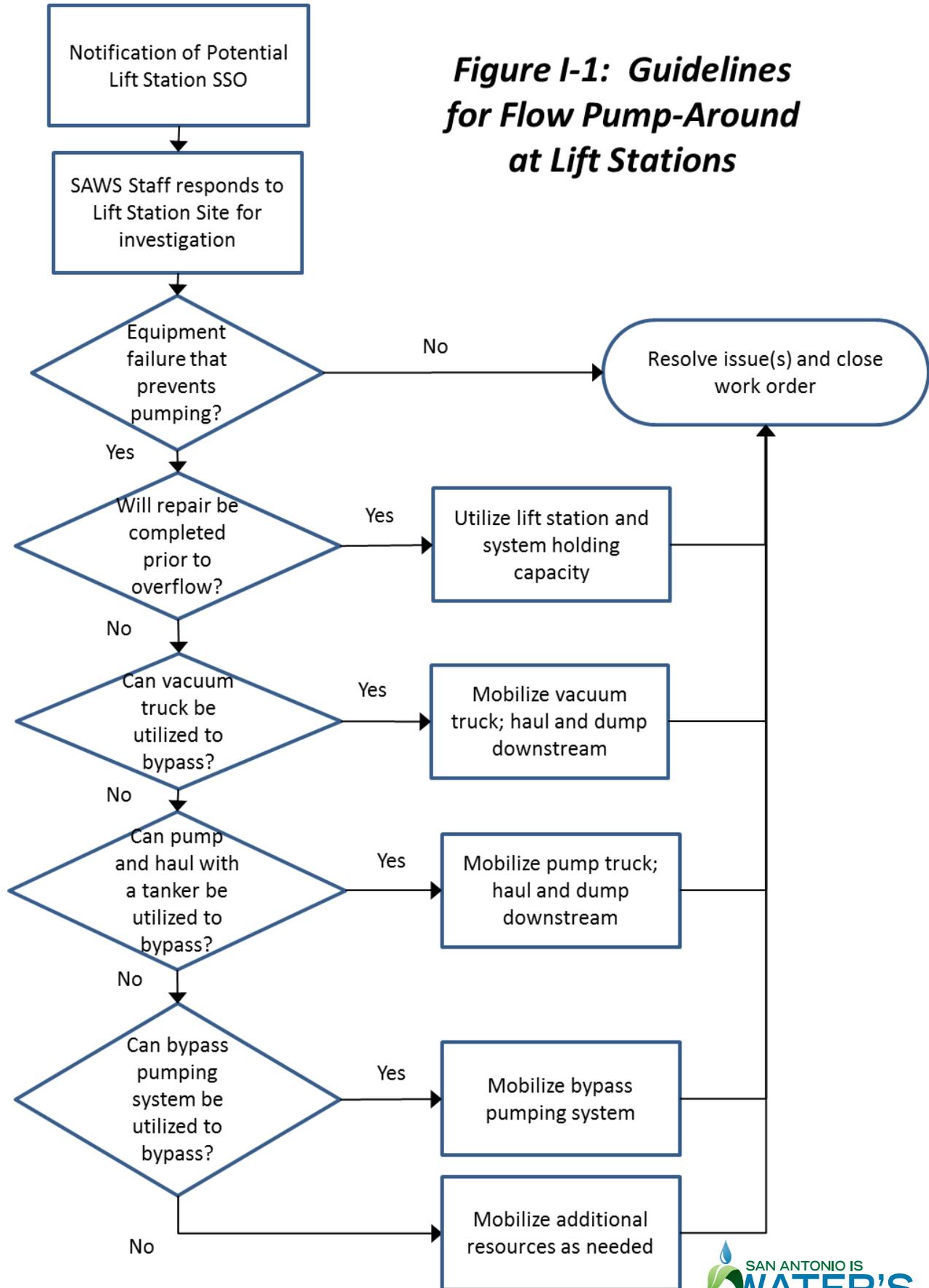
**Keywords:** Lift Station SORP

### Instructions:

#### I. Procedure Description

1. Upon notification of sewer overflow at a Lift Station:
  - 1.1. Emergency Operating Center will contact the Lift Station manager to identify the Lift Station in question.
  - 1.2. Emergency Operations Center will automatically dispatch a Distribution & Collection combo unit to assess the situation.
  - 1.3. Emergency Operations Center will automatically dispatch one mechanic and one electrician from the Lift Stations Group to determine the problem.
2. Upon arrival of Lift Station Maintenance personnel to the Lift Station:
  - 2.1. Lift Station Group will determine problem.
  - 2.2. Lift Station Group will utilize process outlined below as a guideline for determining the appropriate method to restore flows in the system and/or to move flows downstream through the system.

**Figure I-1: Guidelines for Flow Pump-Around at Lift Stations**



- 2.3. Lift Station personnel will implement appropriate SSO mitigation measures based upon the guidelines for flow pump-around at Lift Station.
- 2.4. Lift Station personnel will walk perimeter of the contaminated area as directed by the Supervisor or Manager.
- 2.5. Lift Station personnel will estimate the overflow volume as directed by the Lift Station Supervisor or Manager.
  - 2.5.1. Lift Station Manager will report date and time of assessment.
3. Lift Station personnel will determine the reason for the spill and take further actions:
  - 3.1. Lift Station personnel will determine if the spill appears to be due to wet weather flows.
  - 3.2. Lift Station personnel will determine if the spill was due to equipment failure.
  - 3.3. Lift Station personnel will determine the components needed to correct the problem at the Lift Station.
  - 3.4. Lift Station personnel will determine the estimated time to bring the Lift Station back into service.
4. Dispatching the necessary equipment and crews:
  - 4.1. Lift Station personnel will determine if a portable generator or portable pump is needed.
  - 4.2. Distribution & Collection will dispatch additional equipment and personnel.
  - 4.3. Distribution & Collection will set up backhoe excavators to dam and capture the spill.
  - 4.4. Distribution & Collection will set up auxiliary trash pumps to transfer the spill back into the collection system.
5. Cleanup activity:
  - 5.1. Flush potable water to clean the affected areas.
    - 5.1.1. Using combo trucks from Distribution & Collection.
    - 5.1.2. Using a fire hydrant opened by Distribution & Collection.
  - 5.2. Distribution & Collection will capture and transfer contaminated water back into collection system.
    - 5.2.1. Using tanker trucks, combo trucks, or auxiliary trash pumps provided by Distribution & Collection.
  - 5.3. Regulatory Compliance will test for ammonia residuals on various points of area affected by the spill.
  - 5.4. Distribution & Collection will apply disinfectant in all area affected by spill.

6. Reporting:

- 6.1. Distribution & Collection will determine the date and time the spill started and ended.
- 6.2. Distribution & Collection and RPC will determine the volume of spill.
- 6.3. RPC will determine if any potable wells are near the spill area.
- 6.4. Regulatory Compliance will determine if any known sensitive features exist in the spill area.



## SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW (SSO) RESPONSE PLAN FOR FORCE MAINS

**Effective Date:** 11/26/13

**Revision #:** 0

**Revision Date:** N/A

### Sewer Overflow Response Plan for Force Mains

**Purpose:** To standardize a general response plan for sewer overflows due to broken force mains.

**Scope:** This procedure applies to all personnel involved in the operation and maintenance of sanitary sewer Lift Stations, as well as personnel in the Distribution and Collection, Construction and Inspections Departments who are involved in the response to sewer overflows and repair of broken force mains.

**Keywords:** Force Main SORP

### Instructions:

#### II. Procedure Description

1. Upon notification of sewer overflow due to a force main break:
  - 1.1. Emergency Operating Center will contact the Lift Station manager to identify the Lift Station and force main in question.
  - 1.2. Emergency Operating Center will automatically dispatch a Distribution and Collection combo truck to start capturing the spill.
  - 1.3. Emergency Operating Center will automatically dispatch a Distribution and Collection repair crew to repair broken force main.
  - 1.4. Emergency Operating Center will automatically dispatch one Mechanic and one Electrician to shut down the Lift Station and force main in question.
2. Upon arrival of Lift Station Maintenance personnel at the Lift Station:
  - 2.1. Lift Station personnel will shut down the Lift Station.
  - 2.2. For Lift Stations with single force main:
    - 2.2.1. Lift Station personnel will drain broken force main into wet well.
    - 2.2.2. Lift Station personnel will setup pump and haul operation at the Lift Station.
  - 2.3. For Lift Stations with dual force mains:

- 2.3.1. Lift Station personnel will drain broken force main into wet well.
  - 2.3.2. Lift Station personnel will isolate broken force main.
  - 2.3.3. Lift Station personnel will turn Lift Station back into operation using the remaining force main.
3. Upon response personnel arrival to broken force main area:
  - 3.1. Distribution and Collection repair crew will dig and expose broken force main.
  - 3.2. Distribution and Collection repair crew will perform the force main repair, depending on the failure type:
    - 3.2.1. Distribution and Collection repair crew will replace broken pipe section with new pipe.
    - 3.2.2. Distribution and Collection repair crew will repair with a clamp when applicable.
  - 3.3. Distribution and Collection repair crew will set up backhoe excavators to dam and contain the spill.
  - 3.4. Distribution and Collection repair crew will set up auxiliary trash pumps to return the spill back into the collection system.
  - 3.5. Distribution and Collection repair crew will walk perimeter of contaminated area as directed by a Supervisor or Manager.
  - 3.6. Distribution and Collection repair crew will estimate the spill volume as directed by a Distribution and Collection Supervisor or Manager.
    - 3.6.1. Distribution and Collection repair crew will report date and time of the spill assessment.
4. Once force main repair has being completed:
  - 4.1. Distribution and Collection repair crew will place the repaired force main back in service.
  - 4.2. Distribution and Collection repair crew will ensure the repair is leak free.
  - 4.3. Distribution and Collection repair crew will backfill the excavation.
5. Cleanup activity:
  - 5.1. Flush potable water through affected area and capture in manmade containment area.
    - 5.1.1. Distribution and Collection repair crew will flush using combo trucks.
    - 5.1.2. Distribution and Collection repair crew will flush using fire hydrants.
  - 5.2. Distribution and Collection repair crew will capture contaminated water and pump back into collection system.
    - 5.2.1. Using tanker trucks, combo trucks, or auxiliary trash pumps set up by Distribution and Collection.

5.2 RPC will test for ammonia residuals at various points of the affected area.

5.3 Distribution and Collection will apply disinfectant in all areas affected by spill.

6. Reporting:

6.1. Distribution and Collection will determine the date and time the spill started and ended.

6.2. Distribution and Collection and RPC will determine the volume of spill.

6.3. RPC will determine if any potable wells are near the spill area.

6.4. RPC will determine if any known sensitive features exist in the spill area.

III. Contact information of Key Personnel

Name	Department	Title	E-Mail	Phone	Role
Mark Villareal	Lift Station Maint. & Ops.	Prod. & Treat. Ops. Manager	Mark.Villareal@saws.org	233-3097	Lift Station Manager
Gilberto Camacho	Lift Station Maint. & Ops.	Prod. Treat. Ops. Supervisor	Gilberto.Camacho@saws.org	233-3060	Lift Station Supervisor, South Side
Erasmus Mendiola	Lift Station Maint. & Ops.	Prod. Treat. Ops. Supervisor	Erasmus.Mendiola@saws.org	233-3608	Lift Station Supervisor, North Side

**Appendix J**  
**Spill/SSO Volume Calculation Guidance**  
**Reference Sheet for Estimating Sewer Spills**



## SPILL/SSO VOLUME CALCULATION PROCEDURES

Effective Date: 03/15/09

Revision #: 1

Revision Date: 11/26/13

### The Spill/SSO Volume Calculation Guidance

A variety of approaches exist for estimating the volume of a SSO. This appendix documents the three methods that are most often employed. The person preparing the estimate should use the method most appropriate to the sewer overflow in question and use the best information available.

#### Method 1: Visual Estimate

The volume of small SSOs can be estimated using a “visual estimate”. To use this method imagine the amount of water that would spill from a bucket or a barrel. A bucket contains 5 gallons and a barrel contains 50 gallons. If the SSO is larger than 50 gallons, try to break the standing water into barrels and then multiply by 50 gallons. This method is useful for contained SSOs up to approximately 200 gallons.

#### Method 2: Measured Volume

The volume of most small SSOs that have been contained can be estimated using this method. The shape, dimensions, and the depth of the contained wastewater are needed. The shape and dimensions are used to calculate the area of the SSO and the depth is used to calculate the volume.

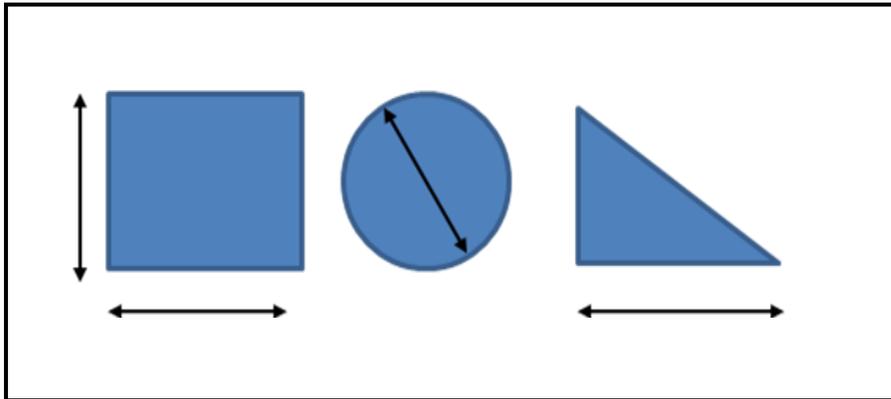
#### Method 3: Duration and Flow rate

Calculating the volume of larger SSOs, where it is difficult or impossible to measure the area and depth, requires a different approach. In this method, separate estimates are made of the duration of the SSO and the flow rate. The methods of estimating duration and flow rate are:

##### Duration

The duration is the elapsed time from the time the SSO started to the time that the flow was restored.

## Common Shapes and Dimensions



Step 1 Sketch the shape of the contained sewage (see figure above).

Step 2 Measure or pace off the dimensions.

Step 3 Measure the depth at several locations and select an average.

Step 4 Convert the dimensions, including depth, to feet.

Step 5 Calculate the area in square feet using the following formulas:

Rectangle: Area = length (feet) x width (feet)

Circle: Area = diameter (feet) x diameter (feet) x 0.785

Triangle: Area = base (feet) x height (feet) x 0.5

Step 6 Multiply area (square feet) times depth (in feet) to obtain volume in cubic feet.

Step 7 Multiply the volume in cubic feet by 7.5 to convert it to gallons.

Start Time: The start time is sometimes difficult to establish. Here are some approaches:

1. Local residents can be used to establish start time. Inquire as to their observations. SSOs that occur in rights-of-way are usually observed and reported promptly. SSOs that occur out of the public view can go on longer before being reported. Sometimes observations like odors or sounds (e.g. water running in a normally dry creek bed) can be used to estimate the start time.
2. Changes in flow on a downstream flow meter can be used to establish the start time. Typically the daily flow peaks are “cut off”, or flattened by the loss of flow. This can be identified by comparing hourly flow data during the SSO event with flow data from prior days. This method will likely only be effective with consistent weather.
3. Conditions at the SSO site change over time and can be used to establish the start time. Initially there will be limited deposits of toilet paper and other sewage solids. After a few days to a week, the sewage solids form a light-colored residue. After a few weeks to a month, the sewage solids turn dark. The quantity of toilet paper and other materials of sewage origin increase over time. These observations can be used to estimate the start time in the absence of other information. Taking photographs to document the observations can be helpful if questions arise later in the process. This method is valid for SSOs that have been occurring for a long time and may be used in conjunction with either of the above methods.

4. It is important to remember that SSOs may not be continuous. Blockages are not usually complete (some flow continues). In this case the SSO would occur during the peak flow periods (typically 10:00 to 12:00 and 13:00 to 16:00 each day). SSOs that occur due to peak flows in excess of capacity will occur only during, and for a short period after, heavy rainfall.

End Time: The end time is usually much easier to establish. Field crews on-site observe the “blow down” that occurs when the blockage has been removed. The “blow down” can also be observed in downstream flow meters.

### Flow Rate

The flow rate is the average flow that left the sewer system during the time of the SSO.

There are three common ways to estimate the flow rate:

1. The San Diego Manhole Flow rate Chart: This chart, included at the end of this appendix, shows water flowing from manhole covers at a variety of flow rates. The observations of the field crew can be used to select the appropriate flow rate from the chart. If possible, photographs are useful in documenting basis for the flow rate estimate.
2. Flow meter: Changes in flows in downstream flow meters can be used to estimate the flow rate during the SSO.
3. Counting Connections: Once the location of the SSO is known, the number of upstream connections can be determined from the sewer maps. Multiply the number of connections by 204 gallons per day per connection, or 8.5 gallons per hour per connection. For example:  
$$22 \text{ upstream connections} * 8.5 \text{ gallons per hour per connection}$$
$$= 187 \text{ gallons per hour}/60 \text{ minutes per hour}$$
$$= 3.11 \text{ gallons per minute}$$

### Spill Volume

Once duration and flow rate have been estimated, the volume of the SSO is the product of duration (hours or days) and the flow rate (gallons per hour or gallons per day). For example:

Spill start time = 11:00

Spill end time = 14:00

Spill duration = 3 hours

$3.11 \text{ gallons per minute} \times 3 \text{ hours} \times 60 \text{ minutes per hour}$

$= 560 \text{ gallons}$



City of San Diego  
Metropolitan Wastewater Department

**Reference Sheet for Estimating Sewer Spills  
from Overflowing Sewer Manholes**

*All estimates are calculated in gallons per minute (gpm)*

Wastewater Collection Division  
(619) 654-4160



5 gpm



25 gpm



50 gpm



100 gpm



150 gpm



200 gpm



225 gpm



250 gpm



275 gpm

All photos were taken during a demonstration using metered water from a hydrant in cooperation with the City of San Diego's Water Department.

rev. 4/99

**Appendix K**  
**Notice of Spill from a Wastewater Facility Form**

**NOTICE OF SPILL FROM A WASTEWATER FACILITY**

A spill from a wastewater treatment or collection facility has occurred.

**INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPILL**

Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact for further information: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of the spill: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated time and date of spill: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated volume of the spill (number of gallons): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of spill: (domestic) (industrial) (other) Explain other: \_\_\_\_\_

Area potentially affected: \_\_\_\_\_

Suspected cause of spill: \_\_\_\_\_

**THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN:**

- Appropriate local governmental officials have been notified.
- TCEQ regional office has been notified.
- The spill has been contained.
- Increased monitoring of water supply systems has been initiated.
- The cause of the spill has been corrected.
- Clean-up activities are underway/completed.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**PERSONS MAY WISH TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL PRECAUTIONS**

- Use only water that has been distilled or boiled at a rolling boil for at least one minute for all personal uses including drinking, cooking, bathing and tooth brushing.
- Don't swim in affected area streams, ponds or lakes.
- Always wash hands thoroughly before preparing or eating food.
- Always wash hands thoroughly after any contact with animals, soil or diapers.
- Private well owners may wish to treat their well water, have their well water tested and inspect their wells for proper siting, construction and maintenance.

**Appendix L**  
**Sample of Warning Signs**

# Stay Away!

**Raw sewage on ground.  
Serious health risk.  
Cleanup in progress.**



# ¡Manténgase Alejado!

**Aguas residuales en la superficie.**

**Alto riesgo para la salud.**

**Limpieza en marcha.**



## **Appendix M**

### **"5-Day" TCEQ Water Quality Non Compliance Notification Form**

