

Streamlines

News from the Clackamas County Service District No. 1
Surface Water Management Program

SUMMER 2004

Spills and Illicit Discharges

by Andrew Swanson

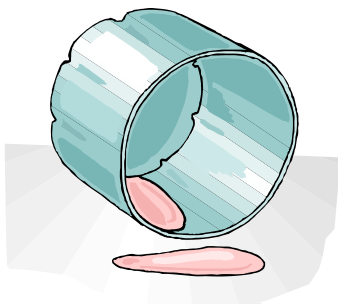
Water Environment Services (WES) protects surface water and groundwater quality by preventing, detecting, addressing - and if necessary - controlling the discharge of certain "point sources" of waste and wastewater to the County's storm sewer system within Clackamas County Service District No. 1. Storm sewer systems typically provide little or no treatment for these discharges, so most or all of this pollution is then passed directly into surface waters or groundwater.

Painting-related wastes, automotive fluids, chlorinated pool/spa waters, and certain types of washwater are just a few of the many types materials that should never be discharged into the storm sewer system. These discharges can enter public storm sewer systems in a variety of ways, such as through hard-piped connections, flexible hoses, or by dumping the wastewater directly into storm water catch basins that serve streets and parking lots. If you become aware of a release to a storm sewer system, groundwater, or to a surface water body that may involve dangerous waste, hazardous waste, or polluted wastewater, please evacuate to a safe place and contact WES immediately.



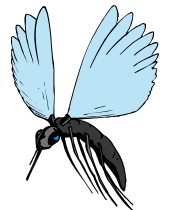
Please contact WES at 503-353-4567 (7:30am to 4:30pm, M-F) to report a release or to learn more about how you can prevent the discharge of these materials into the storm sewer system from your home or business. To report an "after hours" release of dangerous or polluted wastes, please call Clackamas County's 24 hour dispatch center at 503-655-8211. *Please note that for significant hazardous materials incidents, promptly call 911, and then call WES at 503-353-4567.*

In general, clean rainwater and clean springwater are the only materials that are allowed to be discharged into storm sewers. Exceptions are allowed for a few very specific types of discharges. These exceptions include, but aren't limited to, discharges from street washing and residential car washing. Please call Andrew Swanson of WES at 503-353-4598 to learn more about how you can wash cars and streets in a manner that protects (or minimizes harm to) water quality.



West Nile Information

- West Nile virus is spread by the bite of an infected mosquito and can infect people, horses and birds.
- About 1 in 5 people who are bitten by mosquitoes carrying West Nile virus develop mild "flu-like" symptoms.
- Symptoms of West Nile include fever, headache, body ache, stiff neck, rash, or swollen glands.
- Consult a physician if you have concerns.
- About 1 in 150 people who are infected may develop severe neurological disease. West Nile virus infection can result in a sometimes fatal illness known as West Nile encephalitis (inflammation of the brain). The risk of severe disease is higher for people older than 50.
- Public Health in Oregon is monitoring the West Nile virus and will keep the public informed.



DEET (N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide), an insect repellent, is designed for direct application to human skin to repel, not kill, insects. It is recommended that adults use a product with a 20% or less concentration and children use a product with 10% or less concentration. Use care when applying DEET and follow all directions/precautions on the product label.

West Nile Information Line: 866-703-4636 or 866-703-INFO

GreenScene Nature Activities

With bird watching, paddle trips, volunteer work parties, special events, nature classes and open space tours from more than 50 providers in the Portland metro area, Metro GreenScene is your guide to the nature of the region. GreenScene activities are now posted on Metro's online Calendar at www.metro-region.org

For more information, call the Regional Parks and Greenspaces Department at (503) 797-1850, fax (503) 797-1849 or send e-mail to metroparks@metro-region.org. The hearing impaired can call TDD (503) 797-1804.



PARTY WITH THE ANIMALS -- At The CLACKAMAS COUNTY FAIR

August 17th through August 22nd at the Clackamas County Fairgrounds in Canby. Check out their webpage at: www.co.clackamas.or.us/fair/



**Is your lawn chemical free?
Maybe It should be.**

1. Apply compost

Top dress your lawn with fine compost about a quarter-inch deep-provide a slow release of nitrogen. It reduces watering, improves drainage and improves the soil.

2. Grasscycle

Leaving grass clippings on your lawn releases nutrients and cuts your fertilizer needs in half.

3. Use organic or slow-release fertilizer

Use a complete organic fertilizer once each year. A soil test can tell you your fertilizer needs or whether you even need to fertilize. Organic fertilizers are made from naturally occurring materials such as bone, seaweed and rocks, not chemicals.

4. Skip the weed and feed

Weed and feed contains fertilizer and weed killers. Why use weed killer over the entire lawn if you only need to get rid of a few weeds? Remember to dispose of any toxic lawn and garden chemicals safely at a METRO hazardous waste facility.

5. Aerate and over seed with appropriate grass varieties

Aerate using a rented power aerator, or push a garden fork six inches deep every four inches into the lawn and work back and forth to loosen the soil. After aerating or raking to expose soil, over seed with a rye/fescue mix designed for Pacific Northwest conditions.

6. Water deeply but infrequently

Over watering promotes diseases and excessive growth, leaches nutrients from the soil and wastes water. Don't water until you see the first signs of wilt. You can tell your lawn is wilted when footprints remain after you walk on it.

About an inch of water a week is all your lawn needs.

Let the lawn dry out between waterings to encourage deep roots that will withstand the stress of drought.

For lawns on heavy clay soils, water twice a week (or as needed) distributing 1/2 inch of water over the lawn at each watering so the soil can absorb it while avoiding surface runoff. Measure irrigation water by placing a can (a tuna can is good) on your lawn to catch the water.

After one hour of watering, 1/2 inch should accumulate.

7. Know when to water

Save water and money by watering your lawn in the early morning or at night. The least amount of water will be lost to evaporation at that time. This type of watering schedule also reduces disease problems and poor water distribution caused by wind.

8. Have less lawn

Lawns require a lot of fertilizer and water, and large lawns limit plant diversity. Overall, less lawn can mean less work!

- Never swim or wade alone.
- Learn to swim if you don't know how.
- Non-swimmers should wear a life jacket.
- Don't over estimate your swimming skills

Children and Swimming

Many drowning victims are children.

- Children should wear a life jacket.
- Never rely on inner tubes or inflatable toys
- Young children should NOT play in rivers or lakes without an adult nearby.
- Older children should be closely supervised.

Drowning people often pull down would-be-rescuers by grasping and climbing on them. Reach with a:

- Branch
- Towel
- Shirt (not your own)
- Paddle or anything between you and a drowning person.



OR THROW them anything that floats. Such as:

- An Ice Chest
- A Ball
- Or Plastic Jugs

Recognize the Symptoms of Cold Exposure (Hypothermia)

- Blue Lips
- Shivering
- Confusion

Leave the water immediately if you develop any symptoms of hypothermia.



Sandy River Basin Council wins Volunteer Award

Since a portion of CCSD#1 is located in the Sandy River watershed (the Hoodland Service District), WES is a part of the Sandy River Basin Council. This group of citizens is working to bring attention to the Sandy River watershed and its unique characteristics. The SRBC is supported by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, which funds not only restoration/enhancement projects, but also the coordinator position for the Council, and watershed action planning projects (which create the “road map” of where to do projects in the watershed).

George Hoyt is an active volunteer in the Council, and his outstanding stewardship projects have resulted in several hundred new trees planted along the banks of rivers and streams within the Sandy river basin. He has contacted landowners along the river, and received permission for the Council to go onsite and do restoration projects. In May, George and the Sandy River Basin Council won the Hands and Hearts Volunteer Award, given by the Clackamas County Volunteer Connection. WES would like to say “congratulations” to the Council for a job well done! Anyone interested in joining a watershed council should contact WES at 503-353-4567 for more information.

RIVER SAFETY

Be Very Careful Using Rivers

Recreational waders and swimmers should use caution in Northwest rivers and lakes.

