



MEDIA RELEASE

Rainfall Causes Sanitary Sewer Overflow

TEMPLE, TX (May 17, 2024) – The City of Temple is providing public notification of significant sewer overflows from its collection system.

Due to rainfall overloading the sewer system, on Thursday, May 16, between 2:45 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., a sanitary sewer overflow began to occur near the following locations: 3550 SW H K Dodgen Loop, 2006 S 65th St, 2003 Birdcreek Terrace, and 2401 S 61st St.

The affected area is Bird Creek from SW H K Dodgen Loop to S 61st St. All four locations discharged to Bird Creek, and as of 7:00 a.m. on Friday, May 17, the combined overflows consist of an estimated 1,197,675 gallons of mostly stormwater. These overflows are ongoing. It should be noted that a capital project is underway to resolve this recurring issue.

City of Temple utility crews are cleaning and disinfecting the affected areas. They have also staged chlorine at the sources of the overflow and dechlorinated the receiving stream. Additionally, crews are investigating areas upstream to try and locate sources of stormwater inflow.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has been notified. Please see the TCEQ precautionary statements below:

1. Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within 1/2-mile of the spill site or within the potentially affected area should 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. Individuals with private water wells should have their well water tested and disinfected, if necessary, prior to discontinuing distillation or boiling.
2. Persons who purchase water from a public water supply may contact their water supply distributor to determine if the water is safe for personal use.
3. The public should avoid contact with waste material, soil, or water in the area potentially affected by the spill.
4. If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil, or water potentially affected by the spill, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly as soon as possible.

The City of Temple drinking water system is unaffected. For questions regarding the overflow, please contact 254.298.5611.