Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

What to look for and how to respond.
What is an illicit discharge?

MPCA: “...any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer that is not composed entirely of stormwater. . . “

General Permit MNR040000, 2013

How to recognize:

- Unusual smell.
- Unusual color.
- Oily sheen.
- Trash.
- Leaks.
- Cloudy discharge.
- Stained pavement or structures.
Examples

Cleaning solutions and chemicals. (Source: EPA.gov.)

Oil and other automotive fluids. (Source: Millers River Watershed.)

Turbid water, possibly from soil erosion.
More examples

Trash and plant material.

Littering and illegal dumping.

“Dumpster juice.”

Click to continue or wait for slide to advance.
Still more examples

Cigarette butts.

Erosion and vehicle tracking from construction sites.

Click to continue or wait for slide to advance.
Why be concerned about illicit discharges?

The colleges have a stormwater permit from the MPCA that requires them to recognize, report, and respond to illicit discharges to the storm drainage system.

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Not doing so could result in a penalty.

Besides, it’s bad for wildlife – and us.
When should we inspect for illicit discharges?

High-priority areas on campus:

- When someone reports a possible illicit discharge.
- During routine tasks or inspections of the campus stormwater drainage system.

- Areas close to surface waters (Mississippi River, e.g.)
- Areas where automotive repair or maintenance are performed.
What should I do if I find an illicit discharge?

If you think the discharge is hazardous or an immediate threat to public safety or the environment, call 911.

Contact Roger Freeman at 763-433-1378 or Ed Wilberg at 763-433-1346. They will begin an investigation.
Questions?

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Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
Center for Watershed Protection, 2004
• Guidance Manual
• Technical Appendices