

# Preventing Stormwater Pollution

## *What We Can Do*

**Employee Training**  
**Recognizing and Reporting Illicit Discharges**

*<Insert Your Organization's Name >*

*Prepared in Cooperation with the North Central Texas  
Regional Stormwater Management Program*



<Your  
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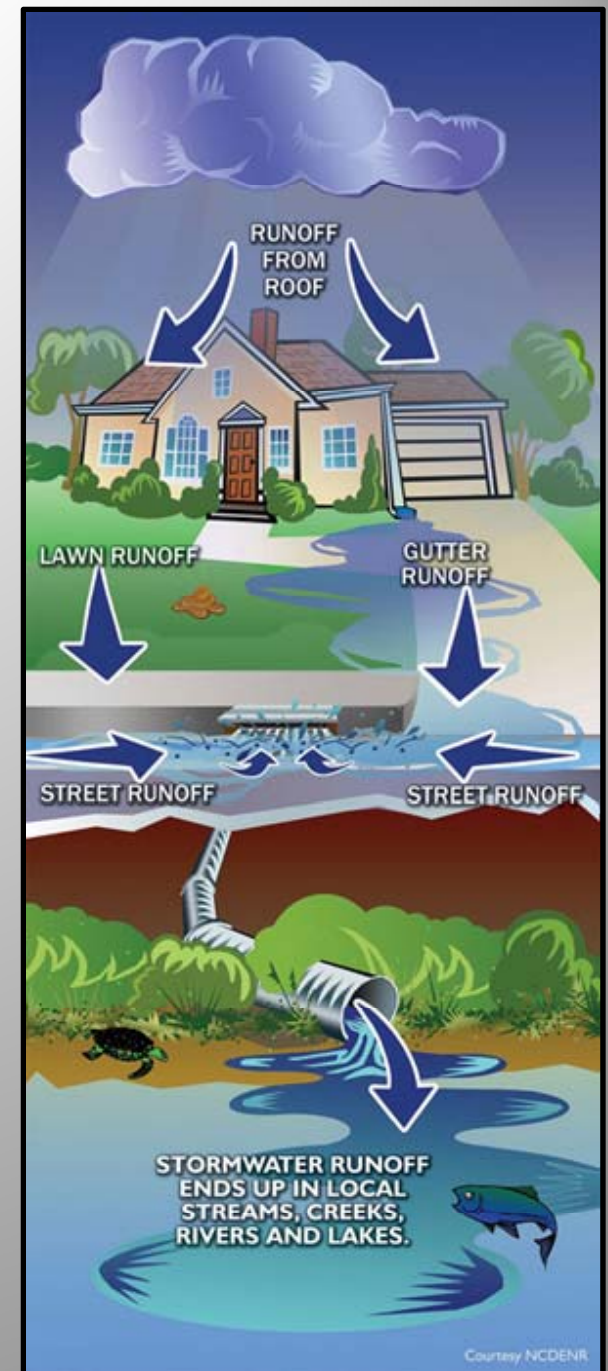
# Training Goals

- Understand the terms “stormwater” and “illicit discharge”
- Understand why these terms are important and why you should care
- Understand what you can do to help prevent stormwater pollution
- Understand how to recognize and report illicit discharges (pollution)



# What is Stormwater?

- When it rains, water that does not soak into the ground becomes runoff
- This runoff can enter a storm sewer system which ends up in local streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes



# Why is Stormwater Runoff Important?

- Stormwater runoff can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants
- Stormwater runoff is **NOT** treated before it is discharged into local streams, creeks, rivers, and lakes



Lakeland, FL

# What is an Illicit Discharge?

- Any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely of stormwater
- Exceptions include:
  - Water line flushing
  - Runoff or return flow from landscape irrigation
  - Discharges from potable water sources
  - Diverted stream flows
  - Rising ground waters and springs
  - Uncontaminated ground water infiltration
  - Uncontaminated pumped ground water
  - Foundation and footing drains
  - Air conditioning condensation
  - Water from crawl space pumps
  - Individual residential vehicle washing
  - Flows from wetlands and riparian habitats
  - Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges
  - Street wash water
  - Discharges or flows from fire fighting activities
  - Etc.

# Why are Illicit Discharges Important?

- Illicit discharges often include pathogens, nutrients, toxic pollutants, etc.
- Illicit discharges = pollution
- Anything that enters a storm sewer system flows untreated to a local waterway



Irving



# Why Should You Care?

- We use local waterways for swimming, fishing, boating, and as a source of drinking water
- <Insert name of regulated MS4> is required to prevent pollutants from entering the storm sewer system



Wayne County, MI



# What Can You Do?

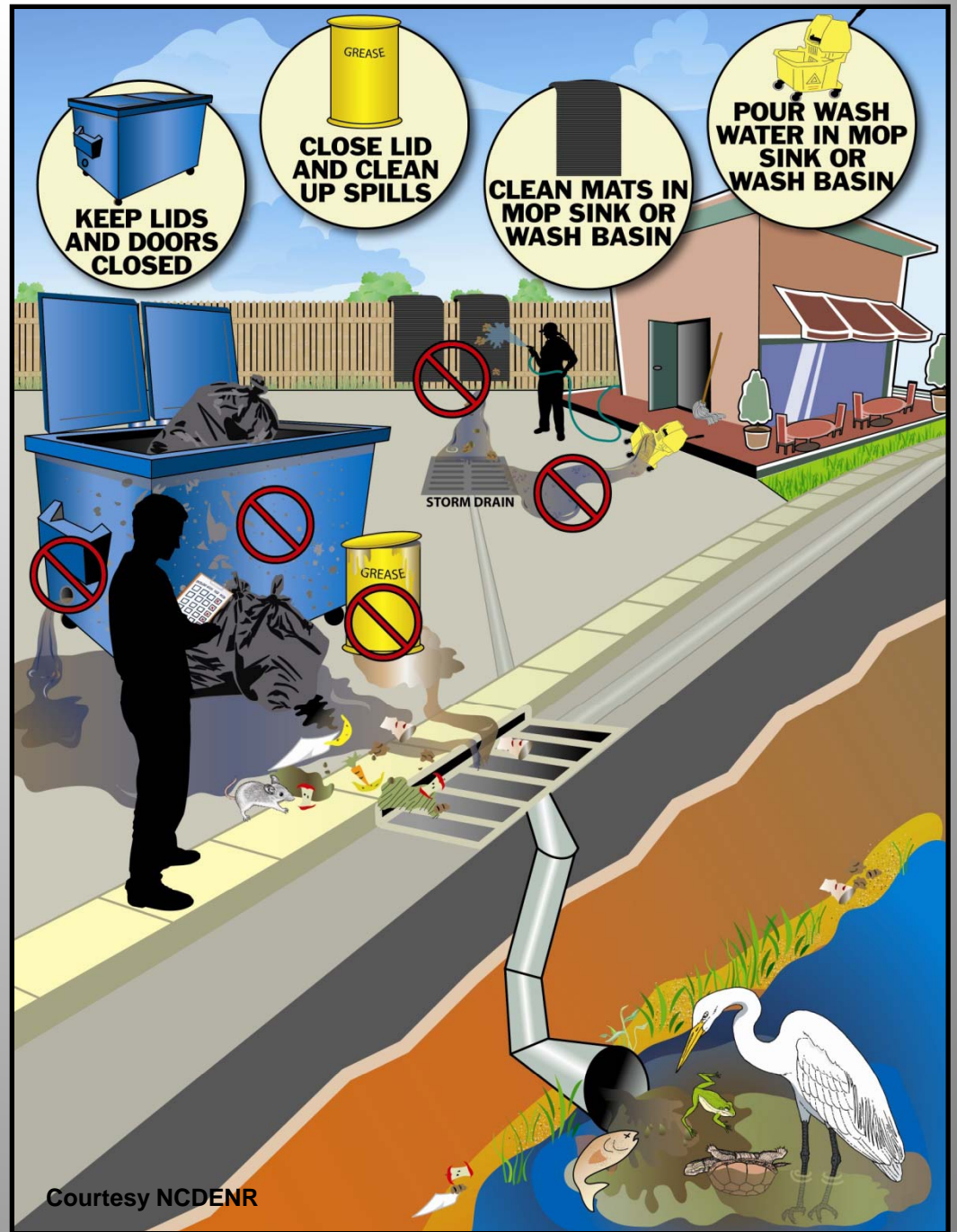
- Employees can help prevent stormwater pollution by:
  - Preventing pollutants from being dumped or spilled into the storm sewer system (this includes driveways, sidewalks, streets, storm drains)
  - Reporting pollution or questionable discharges to the storm sewer system or local waterways





# Preventing Pollution

- Store and handle materials safely
- Clean up spills properly
- Never dump or wash out items down or near a storm drain



# Reporting Pollution

- If you see questionable discharges entering the storm sewer system or someone dumping something down the storm drain, report it



Grand Prairie



Montgomery County, MD

# Examples of What to Report

## *Pollution Entering the Storm Sewer System*

Arlington



Dirty water in the street

Tetra Tech



Wash out of solids/liquids

Tetra Tech



Unusually colored discharges

Tetra Tech



Liquids dumped down a storm drain



Leaks

Tetra Tech



Solids blown or swept in the street or down a storm drain

# Reporting Pollution

- If you see warning signs of pollution coming out of a pipe or in a local waterway, report it
- Warning signs may include the presence of unusual:
  - Color
  - Odor
  - Turbidity
  - Floatable liquids and solids
  - Etc.



Fort Worth



Tetra Tech

# Examples of What to Report

## *Unusual Water Color*



Pea-green/  
bright green

Fort Worth

Milky gray-black



Center for Watershed Protection

Milky white



Dr. Robert Pitt

Dark red, purple, blue, black



Grand Prairie



Tan to light  
brown

Don Green, Franklin, TN

# Examples of What to Report

## *Unusual Odor*

- Some odors are an immediate indicator of pollution
- Sewage, gasoline, and chemical odors should be reported

Odor	Causes
<b>Rotten eggs/hydrogen sulfide</b>	Raw sewage, decomposing organic matter, lack of oxygen
<b>Sharp, pungent odor</b>	Chemicals or pesticides
<b>Gasoline, petroleum</b>	Industrial discharge, illegal dumping of wastes, waste water

# Examples of What to Report

## *Highly Turbid Water*



Catawaba Riverkeeper

Construction site  
discharge



Rachel Calabro, MA Dept of Env Protection

Discharge of rinse  
from floor sanding



Rachel Calabro, MA Dept of Env Protection

Unknown brown  
turbid discharge



Center for Watershed Protection

Sewage  
discharge

# Examples of What to Report

## *Floatables in the Water*



Leaves  
and grass  
clippings

Trash and  
debris



Sewage fungus



Wayne County, MI

Oil sheen



Jane Thomas, IAN Image Library

Suds



Center for Watershed Protection



# How to Report

- Call <insert phone number> or email <insert email address>
- Include the following information:
  - Specific location
  - Date and time
  - Description of the pollution
  - Description of the violator, e.g. license plate #, personal description (if applicable)
  - Your contact information
  - Email a picture if you can