

AUGUST 2010



Illicit Discharges Gone Wild!



Thank you to Christie Coker, our volunteer with Watershed Management; Jim Cline, Jeff Hails and Leonard Lewis with Public Works-Stormwater Operations; Bill Falls with Pinellas County Utilities; Chris Brodeur, Shannon Ransom and Mickey Crane with the Air Quality Division along with Mike Estigo from the City of Largo for reporting illicit discharges.



GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS!

Please help us protect our waterways by reporting any potential illegal discharges to our roads, stormdrains, drainages, and surface waters. The quality of our water resources can be improved with your help.

Did you ever wonder what the black fencing around a construction site is for?

Although sometimes used to delineate the limits of a project area, the primary purpose of silt fence is to contain soils within a construction site. Silt fence allows water to flow through it but traps soil particles, keeping them from contaminating our waterways. Proper installation and maintenance are critical to effectiveness.



Improper installation and lack of maintenance can result in massive failure as shown in this photo.

Things to look for are broken stakes, torn or frayed fabric or “air fence”, which means fence that is not secured into the ground properly



Another issue that contributes to sediment deposition in our right-of-ways and streams is “site track-out.” Not limited to construction sites, vehicles leaving dirty land parcels can track out mud and sand into the roadway, which can then be washed into the stormsewer system. It can also be a very dangerous traffic situation since braking can be compromised, causing accidents and liability to the property owner.



Our last “watch out” situation for this issue is the improper use of turbidity curtains, which look like the booms used for oil spill control. In many cases, these yellow floating booms are used improperly and allow sediment to be released into our waterways.



These barriers will not prevent downstream sedimentation with this installation... Even if placed in the stream, turbidity curtains cannot stop downstream sediment transport if there is a significant flow velocity.

If you see any of the above “watch out” situations, please contact us for follow-up investigation.

Contact Information for possible illicit discharges (727) 464-4425:

Chip Heintz, cheintz@pinellascounty.org

Bill Sova, wsova@pinellascounty.org

Stormwater 24-Hour Watchline (727) 464-5060

Complaints received from incorporated (city) jurisdictions will be forwarded.

For more information on stormwater and Pinellas County water quality visit the water atlas www.pinellas.wateratlas.usf.edu/stormwaterEd/

Illicit Discharge Training Video:

<http://vstreamint.co.pinellas.fl.us:8080/ramgen/illegaldischarges.rm>