

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Low, Low, SSOs

What is an SSO? A Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) is any overflow, spill release, discharge, or diversion of untreated wastewater from a sanitary sewer system. The City has an approved Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP) which implements plans and procedures to eliminate SSOs. Employees in the Wastewater Management Division's Collection System Maintenance (CSM) workgroup maintain the City's sanitary sewer system and related infrastructures. Because much of the City's nearly 1,600 miles of sanitary sewer system is 50 to 100 years old, maintaining it can be quite a challenge.



The good news is that the hard work is paying off! Between preventative maintenance, best management practices, an increased awareness of Fats, Oils, and Grease disposal, and the use of new and improved sewer cleaning and inspection technologies, the average number of Sanitary Sewer Overflows in Fresno is small compared to the average number of statewide SSOs.

Sewer Emergencies

The following issues constitute a sewer emergency. If you experience or observe any of the following, contact the Wastewater Management Division immediately:

- Unusual smell
- Wastewater coming out of a manhole
- Wastewater in the street

Collection System Maintenance staff is available 24/7 to respond to sanitary sewer emergencies. Once on site, staff will determine if the backup is a sewer lateral issue or a sanitary sewer system main line issue.

To report a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) or other sewer-related emergency, call 3-1-1 or report the issue in FresGO IMMEDIATELY.

Questions? Call 3-1-1 or visit www.fresno.gov/wastewater