VT STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

FACT SHEET

**Detecting and Responding to Illicit Discharges**

An illicit discharge, as defined by the EPA, is any discharge to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) that is not composed entirely of stormwater, except for discharges allowed under a VPDES permit or waters used for firefighting operations.

If an illicit discharge of sewage or other pollutants, typified by high turbidity, odors, floatables and unusual colors are encountered, notify **Virginia Tech Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) immediately.** If you know that a toxic substance was released, call the VT Police and EHS.

**Illicit Discharge Indicators:**

* Unusual color or cloudiness
* Dead vegetation or inhibited growth
* Surface scum or foam
* Dead animals
* Algae
* Floating debris
* Stains on channel bottom or sides
* Strong, pungent or musty odor
* Pipe corrosion
* Oil sheen

   

Paint/Plaster

Oil Sheen

Suds

Cloudy, Discoloration

**Potential Sources of Illicit Discharges:**

Sanitary wastewater

Effluent from septic tanks

Car wash wastewater

Oil spills

Laundry wastewater

Spills from roadway accidents

Vehicle and household chemicals

Construction site activities

HVAC Units

**To report any illegal dumping activities, call Environmental Health and Safety at (540) 231-3600 or visit:** [***www.ehss.vt.edu/report\_issue***](http://www.ehss.vt.edu/report_issue)**. To report a known toxic discharge or dumping activity, call the Virginia Tech Police Department at (540) 231-6411.**