



# NEWS Release

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City of Rockport · 2751 SH 35 N Bypass · Rockport, Texas 78382 · (361) 729-2213

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FEBRUARY 5, 2024

CONTACT: MIKE DONOHO, DIRECTOR, PUBLIC WORKS  
PHONE: (361) 790-1160

## **Public Notification for Wastewater Discharge due to Heavy Rain Event and Pump Failure**

ROCKPORT, TX – Due to the heavy rains and pump failure, there was a sanitary sewer overflow at the Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 1401 N. Pearl Street, Rockport, Texas. At approximately 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 4, 2024, an estimated 260,000 gallons of wastewater exceeded the designated containment area located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The affected area was treated and disinfected with HTH Chlorine Powder as approved by TCEQ. Attached is the required TCEQ notification.

# Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

## Public Notification Form for Wastewater Discharges

### Information about the Discharge

An unauthorized discharge or spill of wastewater has occurred from:

Wastewater Treatment Facility:   X   Collection System:           

Facility Name: Rockport Wastewater Treatment Facility

Person to contact for information: Mike Donoho, (361) 729-1160

Location of spill(s): 1401 N Pearl, Rockport Texas

Estimated date and time of spill(s): February 4, 2024, at approximately 7:00 a.m.

Estimated volume of spill(s)(number of gallons): Estimated volume is a 260,000 gallons.

Type of Spill (domestic, industrial, other): Domestic

Description of the area potentially affected, including down gradient and lateral distance from spill(s) site: Area around lift station east of WWTP.

Suspected cause of spill(s): Rainfall event & pump failure.

### List of actions taken including but, not limited to:

Notification of:

Appropriate local government officials:   X   TCEQ Regional Office:   X  

Containment of spill: On site and right of way in front of WWTP

Increased monitoring of water supply systems: Pumps are in route to be delivered and installed to keep up with flow.

Initiation or completion of cleanup activities: Area was treated and disinfected with HTH chlorine powder.

## **If the Wastewater Spill meets the following conditions:**

1. The spill is 50,000 gallons or more where one or more of the following conditions also exists:
  - (A) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile of a public or private source of drinking water;
  - (B) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile of a private drinking water well which is located within 1/2-mile of a public water supply well;
  - (C) the spill occurs within 1/2-mile up-gradient of a surface water intake of a public or private source of drinking water;
  - (D) the spill occurs in an active groundwater recharge area;
  - (E) the spill occurs up-gradient and within 1/2-mile of a karst terrain or shallow alluvial well that is a source of drinking water; **OR**
2. The spill is 100,000 gallons or more.

## **Ensure the notice contains the following precautionary statements:**

1. Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within ½ mile of the spill site or within the potentially affected area should use only water that has been distilled or boiled at a rolling boil for at least one minute for all personal uses including drinking, cooking, bathing, and tooth brushing. Individuals with private water wells should have their well water tested and disinfected, if necessary, prior to discontinuing distillation or boiling.
2. Persons who purchase water from a public water supply may contact their water supply distributor to determine if the water is safe for personal use.
3. The public should avoid contact with waste material, soil, or water in the area potentially affected by the spill.
4. If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil, or water potentially affected by the spill, they should bathe and wash clothes thoroughly as soon as possible.