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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board of County Commissioners

12.06.19



Okaloosa County Spill Alert

Shalimar – Okaloosa County Water & Sewer (OCWS) experienced a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) Thursday morning at 105 Santa Rosa Blvd on Okaloosa Island. Fortunately, the spill was contained and did not flow into a water body. OCWS staff submitted a report on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FDEP) Public Notice of Pollution website. FDEP then sent out an email notification to the media and other interested parties.

Yesterday at 9:30am, OCWS was notified by the Okaloosa Island Fire District of a potential sewer spill behind their fire station on Santa Rosa Blvd. OCWS staff soon arrived to find a leak on an 8-inch diameter sewer force main near the southeast corner of the large parcel that contains OCWS' Main Island Pump Station.

Due to the swift actions of the OCWS crews at the site, the SSO ceased at 11:40am.

By about 4pm, the force main was repaired, and normal operations were restored. Based on information from the fire district staff and from system information, OCWS estimates the spill as approximately 20,000 gallons. Of this 20,000 gallons, approximately 2,000 gallons was recovered by vacuum trucks and discharged into the nearby pump station.

While repairing the force main, staff discovered the cause of the leak to be a cracked PVC pipe.

OCWS' Environmental Coordinator reviewed the situation and confirmed that the SSO did not discharge into any wetlands or water bodies. In addition, the SSO was contained inside a fenced-in area, inaccessible to the public. Upon restoring normal operations, OCWS staff cleaned and disinfected the affected area.

OCWS is committed to being a proactive utility, to preventing sanitary sewer overflows, and to protecting public health and safety via such actions like regular pump station checks, out-of-sight pipeline inspection, system monitoring (via SCADA), and rehabilitating/replacing infrastructure.

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“I sincerely want to thank the county staff who promptly responded to the unfortunate leak caused by an aging system. Although we complete inspections on a regular basis,” said Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel, “we count on citizens being our eyes if they notice anything unusual and to report it.”

Kelly Windes

Kelly Windes, Chairman

Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CHRISTOPHER SAUL AT
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