About Us
Who we are, what we do, how we improving quality of life for Houston residents

We provide unique services to protect public health within the City

• Enforcement of local ordinances
• Inspections (permitted facilities)
• Surface Water Monitoring
• Complaint Response
• Education / Outreach
• Partnering with other agencies
Programs Critical to Water Quality
Environmental Health Division

**FOG**
More than 10,000 restaurants in Houston, over 6,100 miles of sewer lines, and 2.3 million people

**SURFACE WATER MONITORING**
More than 1,500 Channels totaling about 2,500 miles in Length, over 200 permitted WWTP outfalls, and over 6,000 storm water outfalls

**COMPLAINT INVESTIGATIONS**
Respond to 3-1-1 service requests regarding SSOs, water and air quality, fish kills, illegal dumping, and other environmental concerns
Surface Water Monitoring and Investigations
Special Studies Process and Some of Our Findings
Severe cases...

Fish Kill Caused by Sewage Overflow

Symptoms reported by citizens:

Dizziness
Headaches
Nausea
SSO from City Main
**Illicit Discharge**

Direct connection into MS4
Toxic Algal Blooms
Public Health Hazard Resulting From Spills

Country Club Bayou Near Hughes Street Warehouse Fire Runoff

Spring Branch Creek Warehouse Fire Runoff May 2016

Sims Bayou Warehouse Fire Runoff May 2018
Goals / Objectives of Investigations

What are our main objectives in responding to a surface water pollution report?

• Minimize Damages
• Find and mitigate the source
• Record and document all findings
• Ensure proper remediation (using enforcement if necessary)
• Conduct follow-up monitoring
• Prevent Reoccurrence
What to Report

Information that will help us:

- Date / Time you first noticed the pollution
- What does it look like / How does it smell?
- Is it causing any noticeable health effects?
- Do you suspect any particular source?
- Did you notice any dead vegetation or wildlife?

Photos are very helpful.
FOG Program
Fats, Oils and Grease
Sanitary Sewer Overflows- Education & Enforcement
The FOG program is divided into three sections: Field Operations, Transporter, Excursion Tracking/Complaints

Total # of Environmental Investigators: 16

- Inspection at establishments that generate city regulated waste (Restaurants-grease, Carwashes-grit, Washaterias-lint, Lube locations- oil/water separators)
- Enforcement of local ordinances
- Complaint response to SSOs, illegal dumping, and citizen concerns
- Criminal investigations with HPD and other agencies
- Community Outreach
Sanitary sewer overflows investigated for the two years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Violations</th>
<th>Citations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>7,503</td>
<td>695</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17</td>
<td>11,492</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Outreach initiatives

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY16</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apartment complex- Tissue, human waste, food waste, and sanitary products covered a large area of the front of the complex in an area roughly 20 feet wide along the length of the apartment, including the entire area around the porch of the complainant. The resident was in a wheelchair, and literally had to roll through sewage to leave her apartment. Multiple citations were issued and HPD was involved. Problems occurred on multiple sections of the service line that required repair, in addition to a problem with the connection made by contractors during the pipe-bursting project to replace the main.
SSO Investigation #2- Home

Complainant was attempting to repave his parking lot, but was unable to due to a continuous discharge of sewage from an unknown source on the far side of the parking lot coming from two pipes protruding through the fence from the adjacent property. The resident of the home had experienced a sewer blockage and backup in his home over a year ago and decided the trench would be the best option to divert rainwater and sewage from the property. Multiple citations were issued and homeowner was required to correct the issue.
Multiple ongoing overflows, including three cleanouts, one of which had visible discharge grease. The overflows appeared to have been ongoing for some time and the manager was informed to clean the lines and repair the pipe.
FOG Program Goals

- Reduce the impact of pollutants that may interfere with the function of the sanitary and storm sewer system
- Increase awareness through education and continuous involvement in community based initiatives and outreach.
- Provide enforcement through investigations and ensure proper remediation.
- Collaborate with other agencies and departments during investigations.
Nuisance Ordinance
Sec. 10-451

Whatever is dangerous to human health or welfare, or whatever renders the ground, the water, the air, or food a hazard to human health is hereby declared to be a nuisance.

Storm Water Ordinance
Sec. 47-741

A person commits an offense if the person threatens to introduce, introduces or causes to be introduced into the MS4 any discharge that is not composed entirely of storm water.

FOG Ordinance
Chapter 47 Article XI

The purpose of this article is to protect the citizens and the environment from the potential hazard that may result from unauthorized waste releases and to deter illegal introduction of pollutants into the sanitary sewer system, storm sewers, street rights-of-way and other unauthorized places.
QUESTIONS
Thank You!