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File an Environmental Complaint Online

We investigate violations of [Chapter 27 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances](#), also known as the Natural Resource Protection Code. Generally, these are activities that could potentially impact the air, waters, soils, or natural resources of Broward County.

Environmental complaints can be reported 24 hours a day and 7 days a week to **954-519-1499**, or you can file a [Complaint Online](#) (select "Request for Service"). Regular business hours are from **8:00 am until 4:30 pm**, Monday through Friday. For non-environmental concerns, please call the Broward County Call Center at **311 or 954-831-4000** during regular business hours.

Please be advised that the State of Florida has a broad public records law and all information received is considered public information. If requested, all information may be subject to public disclosure.

If you are calling 954-519-1499 after regular business hours please leave a message with your name, phone number, and a brief description of the concern. An on-call staff member will call you as soon as possible. **If the concern is considered to be an emergency, please call 911 and then 954-519-1499 immediately.**

Please have the following information available before you call the complaint line:

- Your name, address, work and/or home phone number
- Nature of the complaint
- Date/Time of the violation
- Violation location, including address, city and zip code (if known)
- Company or person committing this act
- Any additional descriptions or background information that will enable us to better understand the situation

Follow the link below to file a complaint electronically.

Please note as of July 1, 2021, [SB60](#) went into effect, requiring all complaints to be accompanied by complainant name and address. If the complainant information is missing, we will be unable to handle the investigation or enforcement of complaints.

Rewards

Ordinance 94-17 was approved by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners on March 8, 1994 to amend Chapter 27, Article I, Division 4, Section 27-41 to provide for the payment of monetary rewards to members of the general public whose reporting of environmental crimes or pollution incidents results in the assessment and collection of civil penalties from said violators.

Reward Policy Outline:

1. Citizens may report an environmental crime or pollution incident to the Public Works and Environmental Services Department.
2. If the information provided results in an enforcement case and penalties are collected from a settlement agreement or a Final Order, the citizen may be eligible for a monetary reward. General nuisance complaints such as noise or odor are not eligible for awards.
3. All County employees and their families and employees of state or federal environmental agencies are not eligible to receive any monetary rewards under this program.
4. If during the investigation, Broward County determines that the citizen reporting the violation was a party to or aided in creating the violation, the citizen will become ineligible for a reward.
5. If a citizen identifying a violation requires that his/her identity remain anonymous, the citizen will become ineligible for a reward (although the complaint will be followed up on).
6. Based on the results of the final disposition (track with [ENVIROS](#)), Broward County will make a determination as to what rewards are appropriate for issuance. The following table will be used to determine the amount of each award:

Penalty Collected	Award Received
Less than \$500	\$0
\$500-\$2,500	\$50
\$2,501-\$7,500	\$200
\$7,501-\$10,000	\$350
Greater than \$10,000	\$500

Each citizen is limited to a maximum of \$500 in rewards per fiscal year.

List of Environmental Concerns We Investigate

The Broward County 's Natural Resources Division and the Environmental Permitting Division respond to certain environmental complaints that may affect air and water quality, soils, wetlands, trees, and aquatic resources. Below is a guide to what we investigate, what we do not, and how you can help the County by reporting accurate information

Air Quality

Odor

Concerns investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- We respond to objectionable odor complaints coming from commercial or industrial facilities that may be releasing air pollutants. Common sources include:
 - Sewage lift stations
 - Landfills
 - Asphalt plants
 - Wastewater treatment plants
 - Other stationary industrial operations.

Specific Cautions: Do not confront anyone at the site of the issue.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Exact location, including cross streets, landmarks, city, and zip code (if known)
- Date and time odor witnessed (if known)
- Description of the odor (e.g., sewage, rotten egg, bleach, etc.), if possible.

Environmental Effect: Unusual or strong odors may indicate that pollutants are being emitted. These pollutants can reduce air quality and potentially impact health.

Report Odors: Call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, or request service online via: [Broward County Request for Service \(Complaint\) Form](#). Please share all the details listed above when calling.

Noise

Concerns investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- Noise from air licensed industrial, manufacturing, commercial/business, government facilities that may create a public nuisance. Staff also respond to noise complaints from facilities operating in unincorporated Broward County. As appropriate, Staff conduct inspections to:

- Identify noise sources
- Work with facility owner/operators on corrective measures.

Concerns NOT investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- Noise from restaurants, bars, nightclubs or residential areas (contact your city)
- Noise from railroads, aircraft, motor vehicles, boats
- Noise from emergency equipment, or safety devices.

Unconfined Emissions (Dust, Sanding, Paint Overspray)

Concerns investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- Unconfined emissions include fine particles released into the air from activities where reasonable control measures are not used, and excessive dust, sanding, or paint overspray is experienced beyond the facility's property boundary.

Dust

- Dust-generating activities:
 - Dry cutting of pavers or concrete
 - Large trucks, buses, and heavy equipment traveling on unpaved surfaces
 - Operations at construction and demolition debris recycling facilities
 - Concrete batch plants
 - Other activities where dust escapes without proper prevention.
- Examples of reasonable dust control measures:
 - Applying water to unpaved roads and other surfaces
 - Using water to control concrete/paver cutting saw dust
 - Covering loaded trucks
 - Covering process and sorting areas
 - Paving and maintenance of roads, parking areas, and yards.

Specific Cautions: Do not approach the work area or confront anyone performing the activity. If possible, move upwind to avoid unconfined dust or paint particles.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including cross streets, city, and zip code (if known)
- Date and time of the incident (if known)
- Company name, business type, and phone numbers (if visible)
- Color of the dust.

Environmental Effect: Dust and airborne particles affect visibility, impact public health, and degrade air quality.

Report Dust Incidents: Call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, or request service online via: [Broward County Request for Service \(Complaint\) Form](#). Please share all the details listed above when calling.

Sanding or Spray Painting

- Businesses and residents may perform outdoor sanding and spray painting. However, they must use reasonable precautions to prevent dust and paint droplets from drifting outside their property boundary or entering the environment.
- Examples of reasonable precautions:
 - Application of water to suppress and filters over storm drains to trap sanding dust particles
 - Using hoods, fans, or filtration equipment
 - Placing enclosures or coverings around the work area where sanding or spray painting is occurring
 - For vehicle sanding or painting outdoors, similar precautions must be taken to keep paint droplets and sanding dust contained
 - When sanding or spray painting occurs near or over water, the work area should be surrounded by a floating boom and/or curtain to ensure sanding dust or overspray does not enter the water.

Specific Cautions: Do not approach the area or confront the person conducting the sanding or spray-painting activity. If possible, move upwind of the source of the pollution.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including cross streets, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Company name, business type, and phone numbers (if visible)
- Look for visible sanding dust or paint escaping into the environment.

Environmental Effect: Overspray contamination of water can harm wildlife, while airborne particles can affect air quality, visibility, and public health.

Report Sanding or Spray-Painting Incidents: Call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, or request service online via: [Broward County Request for Service \(Complaint\) Form](#). Please share all the details listed above when calling.

Visible Air Emissions

Concerns investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- Broward County regulates visible emissions (smoke) from sources of air pollution, such as commercial or industrial fuel combustion operations (such as crematories). The code sets limits for the density (opacity) of smoke, and trained inspectors conduct evaluations to ensure compliance with the provisions in the Code.

Specific Cautions: Do not confront any individual producing emissions. Avoid breathing smoke.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Location of the incident, including cross streets, landmarks, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Description of emissions.

Environmental Effect: Smoke and airborne particles can reduce visibility, affect public health, and degrade air quality.

Report Visible Air Emission Incidents: Call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, or request service online via: [Broward County Request for Service \(Complaint\) Form](#). Please share all the details listed above when calling.

Improper Asbestos Removal

Concerns investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(U.S. EPA\)](#) has established regulations to protect the public from exposure to asbestos fibers that may result from the disturbance and/or removal of asbestos containing building products during the renovation or demolition of public, commercial, industrial, and certain types of residential structures. Through an agreement with the [Florida Department of Environmental Protection \(DEP\)](#), Broward County is authorized to ensure compliance with the federal asbestos regulations. Renovation or demolition projects require timely notification, inspection to determine the presence of asbestos containing materials and payment of applicable fees. Furthermore, Broward County requires the timely (at least 10 working days before commencing work) submittal of a Statement of Responsibilities Regarding Asbestos (SRRA) for any renovation or demolition project in Broward County. The purpose of the SRRA is to ensure that building permit applicants properly account for asbestos concerns. Staff provides applicants information about

asbestos related regulations, restrictions, asbestos notification, survey, and fee payment requirements.

Specific Cautions: Do not confront any individual performing asbestos work.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Location of the incident, including cross streets, landmarks, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- If the incident is at an active renovation or demolition site and if excessive dust from the site is visible
- Type of facility, commercial, condominium or a residential building with 4 or fewer dwelling units (quadplex, triplex, duplex or single-family home).

Environmental Effect: Asbestos is a known carcinogen that may lead to asbestosis, mesothelioma, and lung cancer.

Report Asbestos Incidents: Call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, or request service online via: [Broward County Request for Service \(Complaint\) Form](#). Please share all the details listed above when calling.

-

Open Burning without Approval

Concerns investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- Outside burning of garbage, trash, vegetative debris, paper, treated wood, hazardous materials, plastics, tires, or construction/demolition waste is prohibited and should be reported. Only a few types of open burning are allowed with prior notification to the Natural Resources Division, County or City Fire Marshals. These include small ceremonial bonfires, fire-fighter training exercises, agricultural burning, and prescribed silviculture burning.

Specific Cautions: Do not confront any individual conducting the burning. Avoid breathing smoke.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Location of the incident, including cross streets, landmarks, city, and zip code (if known)
- Date and time the incident occurred (if known)
- Type of material being burned
- Residential, commercial, or agricultural property

- Is the material being burned wet (creates a lot more smoke and material burns inefficiently or incompletely).

Environmental Effect: Smoke and airborne particles can reduce visibility, affect public health, and degrade air quality.

Report Open Burning Incidents: Call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, or request service online via: [Broward County Request for Service \(Complaint\) Form](#). Please share all the details listed above when calling.

Air Quality Concerns not investigated

- Odors from hotels and restaurants (contact the [Broward County Health Department](#) – Hotels and Restaurant sanitation and health inspections are managed by the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR))
- Odors or noise from restaurants/bars/nightclubs or residential areas contact your city code enforcement.
- Odors or noise from railroads/aircraft; motor vehicles/boats; emergency equipment; safety devices
- Freon releases or information ([contact U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) at 800-296-1996)
- Indoor air pollution ([contact Florida Department of Health](#))
- Residential Buildings of 4 units or less, Do-it-yourself (DIY) or contractor renovations/demolitions on individual, privately owned single-family homes
- Small-Scale Projects: Renovation jobs involving less than 260 linear feet, 160 square feet, or 35 cubic feet of regulated asbestos-containing material (RACM)
- Authorized Agricultural and Prescribed Burns: Complaints about smoke or ash from legally permitted agricultural burns (e.g., sugarcane fields) or prescribed forestry/wildfire mitigation fires
- Recreational Fires and Fire Pits: Lawful residential open burning or campfires used strictly for outdoor cooking, recreation, or personal warmth, provided no prohibited materials (like trash or plastics) are burned
- Wildfires and Regional Haze: Smoke from natural wildfires, whether local or traveling long distances across state and regional borders.

Aquatic and Wetland Resources

Impacts to Wetlands or Mangroves / Dredging or Filling in a Waterbody / Dock or Seawall Construction

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Any activity in, on, or under waters or wetlands of Broward County
- Dredging of (the removal of material) or filling in (the placement of material) any surface water body, including rivers, canals, lakes, ponds, etc. or wetlands
- Impacts to mangroves, seagrasses, coral reefs, or other natural resources
- Trimming, alteration or removal of mangroves
- Turbidity (cloudy, milky water) in canals or waterways (usually from dredging activities)
- Clearing of vegetation along canal or lake banks, in wetlands or on undeveloped sites (may contain jurisdictional wetlands)
- Installation, removal, repair or replacement of docks, finger piers, floating vessel / jet ski platforms, seawalls, boatlifts, mooring pilings, etc.
- Installation, replacement or repair of culverts and headwalls
- Shoreline stabilization with rip rap, geotubes or other materials
- Removal, replacement, or installation of utility / transmission lines
- Operation of a marine facility with 5 or more boat slips.

Specific Cautions: Do not confront individuals

Details to note: From a safe distance:

- Location of incident, including addresses, landmarks, waterway, city, zip code, etc.
- Time and date of observation,
- Type of equipment operating (bulldozer, backhoe, crane with dredge bucket etc.),
- Any identify markings (company name, phone number, etc.) on equipment,
- Type of potential violation observed
- Type of material (soil, wood, construction debris, rock, bricks, et.) being placed in surface water or wetland.

Environmental Effect: Mangroves help to filter upland run-off, stabilize bottom sediments, maintain water quality, and protect shorelines from erosion. Loss of wetlands results in loss of breeding, nursery and feeding areas for fish and wildlife.

When you call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Impacts to Reef Community

Concerns investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- Illegal collection or possession of octocorals (sea fans etc.) or stony corals.
- Only individuals that possess current permits for collection of corals or "live rock" may take live, healthy stony corals, and octocorals. Known violations should be reported to the [Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission \(FWC\)](#) at (1-888-404-3922 or *FWC from a cell phone), Large ships awaiting berthing in Port Everglades must use the designated Anchorage area north of the Port channel. Suspected or confirmed violations should be reported directly to the U.S. Coast Guard, Station Fort Lauderdale at 954-927-1611. The requirements are that the ship's anchor be in the Anchorage area. The ship itself may swing outside of the boundaries.
- Damage to the reef by physical contact such as:
 - Small boat anchors
 - Large anchors of ships waiting in the Port Everglades Anchorage area for berth assignments that anchor outside of the designated area
 - Large ships grounding on the reef.
- Impacts to the reef community by small boats can be avoided if boat owners and captains utilize one of the numerous, permanent mooring buoy anchors installed near the reef throughout the County.
- To report a vessel grounding, anchoring incident, or other coral reef injury, use the [Southeast Florida Action Network \(SEAFAN\)](#) online report form or phone hotline 866-770-SEFL (7335).

Specific Cautions: Do not approach or confront an individual collecting coral or causing reef damage. Keep your distance from any ship anchored off Port Everglades.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including landmarks, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Name of the ship or boat causing reef damage
- Description of the ship or boat (size, color, flag)
- Company name if visible on the ship or boat.

Environmental Effect: Potential loss of slow growing coral and upsetting the balance of the reef community, which is very valuable to the marine environment.

When you call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Aquatic and Wetland Resource Concerns not investigated

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division or the Natural Resources Division:

- Manatee emergencies ([contact FL Fish and Wildlife](#) at 1-888-404-3922; Cellular customers: *FWC or #FWC)
- Manatee Protection Policy (contact 954-519-1218)
- Sea Turtle emergencies (contact 954-328-0580).

Hazardous Material Discharges

Hazardous Material Discharges

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Hazardous materials are substances that, because of their chemical nature, pose a potential risk to life, health, and/or the environment if they are released. The hazards associated with these substances can exist during production, storage, transportation, use, or disposal. Examples of some common hazardous materials include motor oil, diesel fuel, gasoline, pool chlorine, paint thinner, anti-freeze, mercury thermometers, pesticides, and herbicides.
- Incidents involving the release (leaks, spills, accidents) or potential release of hazardous materials into the environment. Hazardous material releases may occur from a variety of incidents, including vehicular accidents, leaking containers, improper secondary containment, improper fueling, equipment failure, illegal disposal, improper maintenance, sunken boats, and train derailments.

Specific Cautions: Do not approach any hazardous materials released, inhale vapors, or touch or taste the released materials. Always keep your safety foremost in your mind and call 311 (Broward County Call Center) to report incidents, and 911 if the release is an emergency situation.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including cross streets, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Origin of the release, including the type of facility
- Company name, vehicle type, color, tag number, model
- Any other information which may assist is the identification of the hazardous substance released or the cause of the release.

Environmental Effect: Releases can contaminate the air and ground or can migrate to

and contaminate storm drains, canals, lakes, and groundwater potentially threatening our drinking water supply.

When you call 311 or the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Discovery of Contamination

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Incidents involving the detection of petroleum products or chemicals in the soil, surface water, or groundwater, such as oil spills on land or water, chemical spills, or leaking underground storage tanks. Discolored soil or petroleum odors in groundwater are signs that contamination may be present.
- Example of contamination in water, with absorbent pads placed on contamination to soak it up. Yellow booms hold the contamination in a small area.

Specific Cautions: Do not touch, smell, or taste contaminants, contaminated soil, or water.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including cross streets, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred
- Look for visibly stained soils and note size of contaminated area, labels, names, phone numbers, or markings from any suspected source.

Environmental Effect: Contamination of our natural resources can migrate to storm sewers, canals, lakes, and impact our groundwater, and potentially threaten our drinking water supply.

When you call 311 or the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Hazardous Materials Facilities

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Hazardous material facility is any site or area, excluding vehicles used solely for the transportation of people or property, where either of the following occurs:
 - Any extremely hazardous substance in excess of the threshold planning quantity as defined by the most current version of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (42 U.S.C. § 11001, et seq. (1991)) is present.

- Within a one (1) month period of time, an aggregate amount of twenty-five (25) gallons or more or an equivalent dry volume of hazardous material are stored, handled, generated, used, processed, manufactured, disposed or are otherwise present.

Storage Tank Systems

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Broward County regulates the storage of hazardous materials in above ground and underground storage tanks.
- Storage tanks are regulated when they have capacities greater than 550 gallons if they are above ground and greater than 110 gallons if they are underground. Tanks of smaller volumes are regulated under the Hazardous Material regulations in the Code.

Abandoned Drums

Concerns investigated by The Environmental Permitting Division:

- Abandoned drums or similar containers that are left by roadsides, in ditches, on empty lots, or in abandoned warehouses may contain dangerous hazardous waste/chemicals. These drums of toxic waste/chemicals are usually "abandoned" to avoid the cost of proper and safe disposal. Leaking abandoned drums potentially create a health risk for individuals who accidentally ingest or touch the drums' contents, contaminated surface water, groundwater, sludge, or soils around the drums. In addition, leaking drums can also contaminate soils, surface water and groundwater and pose a threat to our water supply. So, if you see an abandoned drum, please report it promptly! Call 911 if the drum or container is bulging, hissing, leaking, releasing a vapor cloud, or there are dead animals in the vicinity.

Hazardous Material Concerns Not Investigated

- Fuel dispenser calibration ([contact FL Dept. of Agriculture, Bureau of Petroleum Inspection](#) 850-921-1550)
- Drums that wash up on the beach (contact [FL Dept. of Environmental Protection](#) emergency response 561-393-5877)

Smoking Vehicles

Smoking Vehicles

Concerns investigated by the Natural Resources Division:

- We respond to complaints about:
 - Gasoline-powered vehicles emitting visible smoke for more than 5 continuous seconds
 - Diesel-powered vehicles emitting visible smoke for more than 5 continuous seconds *while idling or cruising*. Please note that diesel-powered vehicles often emit smoke while accelerating (such as driving onto a highway ramp) or decelerating (such as stopping at a red light).

Specific Cautions: Do not confront the driver or approach the motor vehicle.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Location (cross streets, landmarks, city, and zip code (if known))
- Date and time
- Vehicle tag number, color, make, and model.

Environmental Effects: The exhaust from motor vehicles account for more than half of Broward County's air pollution. A small percentage of vehicles, (around 10%) produce approximately 50% of all vehicle-related pollution.

Report smoking vehicles to 954-519-1499. The Details to Note listed above are required to process the complaint. Or you may submit a Smoking Vehicle Complaint via the link below:

[Smoking Vehicle Complaint Form](#)

Tree Preservation

Tree Removal, Abuse, and Construction Protection

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Tree protection and preservation is regulated by Broward County except in municipalities that have received certification from the Public Works and Environmental Services Department. Broward County retains jurisdiction on all properties owned or controlled by Broward County, the Broward County School Board, and any site designated as a Local Area of Particular Concern, Urban Wilderness

Inventory Area, Natural Resource Area, or Environmentally Sensitive Land or Historic Tree. The removal of a tree in most instances requires a permit.

Incidents involving:

- Tree removal (excluding nuisance species such as Brazilian Pepper, Australian Pine, Melaleuca, Bischoffia, Earleaf Acacia, Norfolk Island Pine and Schefflera)
- Improper tree pruning (e.g., topping, hat racking, leaving stubs, splitting limb ends, removing tree bark, over lifting a tree, and shaping a tree)
- Tree damage during construction
- Land clearing in forested areas.

Specific Cautions: Do not confront individuals.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including landmarks, block number, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Types of trees being removed or abused
- Company names printed on vehicles or land clearing equipment
- License plate numbers of any vehicles parked on site.

Environmental Effect: Loss of trees results in a loss of oxygen production and air purification, an increase in soil erosion, an increase in airborne particulates, a loss of habitat for wildlife, and a loss of aesthetic comfort. Since trees which shade homes reduce energy consumption, a loss of trees can increase energy consumption thus increasing pollution.

When you call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Tree Preservation Concerns Not Investigated

- Cities with certified programs unless property is owned or controlled by Broward County, School Board or is Environmental Designated Lands.

Waste Management and Waste Transporters

Unauthorized Disposal of Solid Waste

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Incidents involving solid waste, include the depositing, dumping, or storage of construction and demolition debris, vegetative debris, garbage, rubbish, refuse, waste tires, or other discarded material by a company who should otherwise deposit the material at a landfill, recycling facility, or other authorized solid waste acceptance location.

Specific Cautions: Do not attempt to confront the operator. Keep your safety foremost in your mind.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including cross streets, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Facility name
- Phone number
- Tag number or markings on transport vehicles.

Environmental Effect: Improperly handled solid waste can end up buried in unauthorized locations or dumped on vacant lots, run-off from the deposited solid waste could impact surface water and ground water quality.

When you call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

****Local Code Enforcement** should be notified for all other incidents involving the depositing of solid waste.

Waste Management Facilities

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Improper disposal and management of solid waste and the unauthorized presence of hazardous materials result in or contributes to air and water pollution, land blight, and nuisance conditions. Broward County requires that certain solid waste activities and facilities, transfer stations, and waste transporters be managed to eliminate deleterious effects upon the quality of air, water, soil, animal, environmental and human health.
- Borrow pits are regulated aquatic resources created by excavation of land. The process of reclaiming a borrow pit back to land by filling with fill material is referred to as a borrow pit reclamation project.

- A transfer station is any site, location area, or facility whose primary purpose is to store, hold, or process discarded hazardous materials, sludge, or biomedical waste, prior to or during transport to a processing or disposal facility. Excluded from this definition are industrial wastewater treatment systems and industrial wastewater basins.
- Solid waste management facilities are landfills, solid waste disposal areas, borrow pit reclamation areas, compost areas, material recovery areas, volume reduction plants, transfer stations, waste tire processing or collection area, or other facility, the purpose of which is recovery, disposal, recycling, depositing, processing, or storage of solid waste and fill material. The term does not include recovered materials processing facilities.

Waste Transporters

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- A waste transporter is any person or entity who at any time carries, conveys, bears, or transports discarded hazardous materials, sludge, or biomedical waste for commercial purposes. Broward County issues licenses to authorize the transportation of these materials to, from and within Broward County.

Waste management and Waste transporter Concerns Not Investigated

- Litter
- Municipal waste collection, schedules, or operations
- Waste tire transporters
- Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D) haulers

Water Resource Management

Discharge into Storm Drain

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Storm drains (also referred to as storm sewers) are used to control stormwater runoff only. Stormwater runoff is water from the rain which flows from streets, lawns and rooftops over the ground or pavement without soaking into the ground. The storm drain system includes residential swale areas, roadside ditches, gutters, inlets, catch basins, and underground pipes that collect stormwater and carry it away from our streets, parking lots and yards into nearby waterways. Water entering storm drains does not go through a sewage treatment plant but flows directly into nearby waterways without treatment. Therefore, nothing should ever be placed or allowed to enter a storm drain except rainwater – "only rain down the drain."

- Incidents involving potential illicit discharges into storm drain systems may occur in residential, commercial, and industrial areas. The pouring of chemicals, oils, paints, etc., into storm drains is of prime concern. Unfortunately, many people use storm drains to dispose of used oil, grass cuttings, dog feces, etc.

Specific Cautions: Do not confront individuals. Do not approach anyone dumping or disposing of hazardous materials into a storm drain. Call 911 and then call 954-519-1499.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including cross streets, landmarks, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Physical depiction of the person conducting the activity, company name or logo, and description of any vehicles nearby
- Labels or markings on containers, if visible.

Environmental Effect: Most storm drains discharge directly into surface water bodies. Anything put into a storm drain system has the potential to negatively impact surface water quality, may kill aquatic organisms or impair their health, growth, or ability to reproduce, can foul drinking water and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant. When you call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Discharge into Water Bodies

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- Some activities can lead to a decrease in water quality. Any redirection of surface water flow and dredge and fill projects, such as dock construction requires Broward County approval.
- Incidents involving impacts to surface water that affect the quality of the water. Such incidents include discharges, runoff, dewatering operations, dredging, and filling of a waterway. Rainwater is the only discharge allowed into surface water. The appearance of cloudy water, called turbidity, is from suspended sediments or particles in the water and may decrease water quality. Examples of incidents to report include:

Examples of turbidity:

- Construction related activities resulting in the discharge of sediments into surface water (turbidity).
- The placement of solid waste (garbage, wood, concrete materials, or any other type of non-approved fill material) in waterways.
- Discolored or cloudy water.

See HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DISCHARGES for information concerning the discharge of oil or chemicals into surface water.

Specific Cautions: Do not approach or confront any individual or construction site. Keep safety foremost on your mind.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including cross streets, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Any construction activities in an area, including company names if visible
- Businesses or residents washing or dumping materials into surface water
- A dredge or barge located in a waterway.

Environmental Effect: Discharges can reduce the water quality of surface water or groundwater, and potentially threaten our drinking water supply. Sediments clouding the water from turbidity make it difficult for fish to see and feed properly. Sediments can also damage fish gills and impair the feeding and breathing processes in aquatic insects that fish eat. In addition, sediments and particles can cover plant leaves, reducing the amount of sunlight reaching desirable aquatic plants.

When you call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Domestic Wastewater (Sewage) Release

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

The applicability of a Domestic Wastewater (sewage) release is multipart and includes:

- Discharge of untreated wastewater (sewage) to ground, surface waters or ground waters
- Operational problems or failure of pumping stations resulting in alarms, and subsequent overflow of the collection system
- Treatment plant related incidents, such as improper disposal of residuals or effluent
- Discharge of untreated wastewater (sewage) from live-aboard boats and on-site septic systems.

Specific Cautions: In no case should persons come in contact with untreated wastewater. Only authorized personnel should evaluate the situation and take appropriate action. Avoid walking or playing in surface water after significant rain events.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including cross streets, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)

- Any alarms or flashing lights observed.

Environmental Effect: Improper discharges of domestic wastewater (sewage) could contaminate surface and groundwater and can lead to serious health threats.

When you call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Non-Domestic Wastewater Discharges

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- The Non-Domestic Wastewater/NPDES Program is responsible for licensing all facilities with non-domestic direct discharges entering Broward County's ground and surface waters. This program also conducts special surveillance and pollution source projects designed to reduce the illicit discharge of pollutants into the County's water resources. Additionally, program staff coordinate the County's NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permit with 26 municipalities, FDOT, and unincorporated Broward County. This stormwater program is designed to identify urban non-point source pollution and abate sources through Best Management Practices (BMPs). This program also develops BMPs for industries and businesses that have a high potential of releasing pollutants into the surface and ground waters.

Fish Kills

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- A sudden appearance of dead fish in a lake, pond, or canal. Most fish kills result from natural events, such as the sudden lowering of oxygen levels in the water known as inversion. An inversion occurs when a combination of conditions occur simultaneously. Weather patterns, water temperature, depth and quality of water, amount and type of plant growth, fish community structure, and the presence of viruses and bacteria are all necessary to trigger a fish kill. In developed areas, runoff that contains high amounts of nutrients can produce dense growths of algae. When sunlight is available, algae use nutrients and produce oxygen through a process called photosynthesis. Most of the oxygen fish use is provided by algae. However, during large rainstorms or prolonged cloudiness, low sunlight causes algae to switch from photosynthesis to respiration. Not only does this reduce oxygen production, but the algae consume oxygen needed by fish. When this occurs, fish may be observed gasping for breath at the water surface. Stress induced bacterial or viral infections can cause these fish to continue to die for 3-4 days after the occurrence. This is a natural phenomenon and there is nothing that can be done to prevent fish from dying.

- Incidents involving a large number of dead fish on canals or lakes resulting from spills or illegal discharges of toxic substances. This is often caused when fertilizers or pesticides are applied to adjacent lawns and rains wash the chemicals into the water body.

Specific Cautions: Do not come in contact with the dead fish or the impacted waterway.

Details to Note: From a safe distance:

- Note the location of the incident, including landmarks, block number, city, and zip code (if known)
- Time and date the incident occurred (if known)
- Numbers and types of fish affected
- Other types of dead animals such as ducks or turtles
- The presence of dead vegetation along the canal or lake banks
- Weather conditions such as heavy rain and extreme heat conditions
- Any discoloration of the affected waterway
- The overabundance of algal growth in the affected waterway
- Specific location of waterway, including street address and city
- Any suspicious activities by individuals near the waterway, i.e., dumping or discharging any liquids
- Names on vehicles of suspicious persons and/or license plate numbers.

Environmental Effect: Fish kills may result in a total loss of fish species and/or a disruption of the food chain within the water body.

When you call the environmental response hotline at 954-519-1499, please mention all these details in your report.

Drainage Systems / Flooding

Concerns investigated by the Environmental Permitting Division:

- The Surface Water Management Program is responsible for licensing construction/operation of surface water management (drainage) systems as required under the Code. Properly designed, constructed, operated, and maintained drainage systems remove pollutants from storm runoff prior to discharging into Broward County's surface waters and provide the required levels of flood protection in accordance with established criteria for proposed developments. A surface water management system typically consists of a combination of storm drains, street gutters, weirs, sluice gates, dams, pumps, swales, French drains (a.k.a. exfiltration trenches), culverts, drainage wells, dry retention areas, and storm runoff treatment lakes or wetlands. The Broward County Surface Water Management Program regulates

construction/operation of surface water management systems in areas of the county outside of **independent drainage districts**.

Water Resource Management Concerns Not Investigated

- Septic systems ([contact Florida Department of Health](#))
- Canal maintenance (contact your local city)
- Drainage Systems/Flooding within local drainage districts
- Drainage Systems/Flooding within roadways (contact your city)
- Sewage discharge from vessels (contact [Florida Fish and Wildlife](#) (561) 625-5122)