

## Sanitary Sewer Overflows

John J. Truitt, Deputy Secretary Regulatory Programs August 1, 2019



### Wastewater Treatment

- DEP, through its district offices, works with wastewater utilities and Florida residents to protect and conserve our water resources while meeting the basic public health need for effective wastewater treatment.
- These activities are part of DEP's coordinated efforts to promote safe, efficient, and environmentally sound management of Florida's domestic wastewater.
- The Domestic Wastewater Program is responsible for the development and administration of rules and policy for proper treatment of wastewater from domestic facilities.



### Wastewater Treatment Facilities

- DEP regulates approximately 2,000 domestic wastewater facilities
- Providing a total treatment capacity of over 2.5 billion gallons per day





### **Sanitary Sewer Overflows**

- Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) occur when there is an obstruction, system failure, or capacity exceedance at a wastewater facility.
- SSOs can contain partially treated or untreated domestic wastewater and can have adverse effects to public health and the environment.
- DEP has made significant progress in improving the data collected regarding SSOs by implementing the GeoForm software.



# SSOs by Volume





## SSOs by Number





## **Common Causes**

#### January 2017 through December 2018

Cause	Number of Spills	Volumes (Gallons)	Percentage (Volume)
Rain	730	160,596,866	50%
Break-In-Line	1142	50,458,879	16%
Unknown	558	37,630,825	12%
Power	937	27,962,326	9%
Equipment	947	21,580,285	7%
Contractor	446	11,546,223	4%
Blockage	855	7,812,475	2%
Accident	152	3,836,920	1%
Other*	117	484,610	<1%
Total	5884	321,909,409	100%



### **Common Causes by Volume (Gallons)**





### **SSO Evaluation for Storm Events**

- DEP conducted an investigation of SSOs following storm events of 2016.
- The third-party study provided an evaluation of SSO events, causes of events, and recommendations to minimize overflows.
- Infiltration and inflow (rain) and loss of power were identified as primary causes of SSOs in storm events.
- **Recommendations include:** 
  - Address power loss issues
  - Sewer system cleaning and maintenance
  - Reducing infiltration and inflow through system rehabilitation and repairing broken or leaking lines
  - Enlarging or upgrading capacity and/or reliability
  - Construction of wet weather storage and treatment facilities to treat excess flows



### **Outreach Initiative**

- Quarterly meetings with facilities
- Conduct statewide resiliency training for facilities
- Outreach brochures to distribute to facilities and the public
- Storm Preparation Guide and Checklist provided to utilities and posted on DEP's website: <a href="https://floridadep.gov/water/water/documents/storm-preparation-guidance-and-checklist-wastewater-facilities">https://floridadep.gov/water/water/documents/storm-preparation-guidance-and-checklist-wastewater-facilities</a>
- Post-Storm Outreach
  - Hurricane Response Call Center
  - Investigate reports of spill
  - Site visits to facilities to determine operational status



### **Common Corrective Actions**

- Replace/install backup generators and pumps
- Survey and fix I&I issues
- Create Smoke Test Pilot Project
- Sample all surface water bodies impacted by SSOs
- Lift station improvements
- Complete Resiliency Assessment
- Quarterly/annual status reports

- Conduct Capacity Management Operation and Maintenance (CMOM)
- Update and Submit 0 & M
- Create/Update/Submit Emergency Action Plan
- Provide a compliance schedule
- Training program for electrical and mechanical staff
- Evaluate and provide results of facility deficiencies in need of repair/upgrade (Rehabilitation Process Plan)



## **In-Kind Penalty Project**

- Provides violator with opportunity to reduce total cash amount owed.
- Not designed to provide credit for the cost of corrective actions.
- In-kind penalties are limited to the following specific options:
  - Material and/or Labor Support for Environmental Enhancement or Restoration Projects
  - Environmental Information/Education Projects
  - Capital or Facility Improvements
  - Property



### **Pollution Prevention Project (P2)**

- P2 project defined as a process improvement that can be classified in one of the following categories:
  - Source Reduction
  - Waste Minimization
  - On-Site Recycling
- P2 project does NOT include:
  - Off-site recycling
  - Treatment
  - Disposal

