

CANTON NEWS UPDATE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of the Rouge Urges Public to Report Oil Spills Immediately

August 3, 2010, Canton, MI – In an effort to help protect water resources, Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) is urging the public to report any suspicious discharges to the Rouge River immediately.

Each year thousands of gallons of used motor oil, antifreeze and other household hazardous wastes are dumped down storm drains as a means of disposal. Storm drains and roadside ditches lead directly to lakes and streams; any hazardous waste that enters storm drains can pollute drinking water and harm wildlife.

Earlier this summer, Canton's Division of Public Works (DPW) responded to a resident complaint of an oil spill in the Central Park South detention pond. DPW crews were able to trace the spill to a nearby storm drain. Although only one gallon of used motor oil was dumped, clean-up of the spill took several weeks and cost almost \$3,000.

Oil/gas is recognized as a sheen on the water. Natural sheens can be distinguished from oil/gas by swirling it with a stick - if it breaks up and stays separate, it is natural, if it re-attaches, it could be oil/gas. Oil/gas can end up in the river from runoff but it also can be the result of dumping or a leak. Suspicious discharges can be reported, depending on location, by calling the following numbers:

- Wayne County 24-hour hotline 888/223-2363
- Oakland County 24-hour hotline 248/858-0931
- Washtenaw County-Environmental Reporting 734/222-3880
- Michigan 24-hour Pollution Emergency 800/292-4706

Aside from the negative impacts on our water quality, hazardous waste into storm drains, creeks and streams is illegal. When caught, you can be cited under the Michigan Penal Code and also under Canton's Nuisance Ordinance. To avoid ordinance violations and costly fines, properly dispose of all household hazardous waste.

As a reminder, Canton will hold its annual Hazardous Household Waste Day on Saturday, September 11 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Canton's Division of Public Works Building, located at 4847 Sheldon Road. This event is open to Canton residents only and ID will be required. For more information on Canton's Hazardous Household Waste Day or to obtain a list of what will and will not be accepted visit www.canton-mi.org.

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