

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 29, 2022

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Public Notification

Sewage Overflow

In compliance with the Maryland Department of the Environment's Procedures for Public Notification of Sewage Spills, Overflows or Release, the Howard County Health Department in cooperation with the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Utilities reports the following:

CONDITION:	Sewage Overflow
WHERE:	Maryland Avenue and Main Street in Ellicott City, MD
WHAT:	Approximately 12,000 gallons total (Approximately 2,000 gallons per day beginning on July 27, 2022 until the bypass pipe is expected to be constructed on August 1, 2022)
WHEN:	Notification Date: July 29, 2022

Pre-Cautious HEALTH ALERT

On Wednesday, July 27, 2022, our office was notified of a sewage overflow under the Tiber Branch of the Patapsco River near the intersection of Maryland Avenue and Main Street in Ellicott City. The overflow was estimated to be 2,500 gallons at that time and a CCTV inspection was scheduled for Thursday, July 28, 2022. The inspection revealed a sewer main break in a difficult location inside the bottomless arch that conveys the Tiber Branch under Maryland Avenue. When flows are high, sewage is being forced out of the break by pressure and surfacing in the stream channel. As a result, the sanitary sewer flow is intermittent and not continuous. The estimated volume of the overflow is estimated to be approximately 12,000 gallons by the time the bypass will be installed to stop the overflow on Monday, August 1, 2022. No water contact signs are being posted along the stream and river to remind the public to avoid contact with the affected areas. Maryland Department of the Environment has been notified and will be monitoring the situation.

Sanitation Measures

Contractors are scheduled to install a bypass pipe across Maryland Avenue on Monday, August 1, 2022 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM to stop the overflow. Once the bypass is functioning, the contractor will then set up a pump diversion of the stream flow to allow for a dry work area to fix the broken sewer line in the stream bed. Due to the constraints of working in an arch culvert, there is not enough room for equipment and the contractor will need to access the break by hand



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digging. It is estimated that the repair to the bypassed broken pipe will take up to two weeks dependent on weather (storm flow will disrupt repair progress since work will be within the stream channel of Tiber Branch) and the severity of the sewer main break. Maryland Department of the Environment will be notified of the occurrence and subsequent response actions.

For general information regarding the circumstances surrounding the overflow, contact:
BUREAU OF UTILITIES at 410-313-4900.