

# Combined Sewer Overflow Guide for City Employees



*Bridgeport CSO Location*

Portions of the Bridgeport sewer system are over 100 years old. When they were built, a single pipe carried both sewage and storm water. This existing system is called a combined sewer system. During a heavy rainfall or when there is significant snow melt, large volumes of rainwater or melted snow enter the sewers. Instead of overloading the City's wastewater treatment plants, the overflow is discharged directly into waterways at specific permitted combined sewer overflow (CSO) locations in the Bridgeport area.

## How does this impact you?

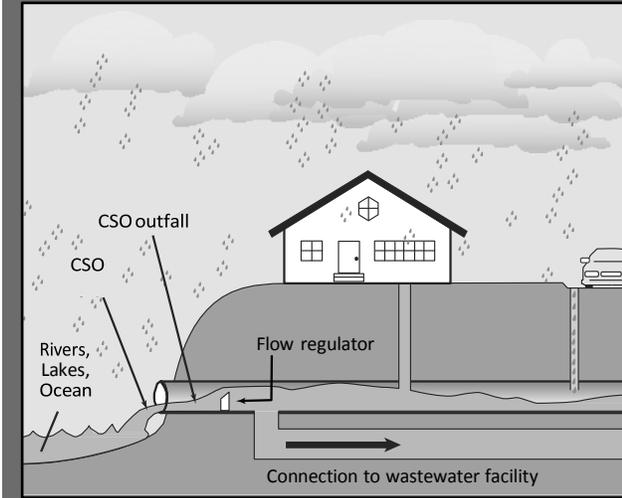
When there is excessive rainfall, wastewater sometimes overflows into our harbors, rivers, brooks and creeks. These overflows can contain bacteria, raw sewage, and other pollutants which can impact public health, aquatic life, and recreational use of these waters.

## What All City Employees Can Do to Prevent CSOs and Contaminated Stormwater

People affect stormwater and CSO discharges! Here are some ways you can help:

- **Conserve water:** Using less water in your office means less flow to the sewer. Remember to turn off the faucet. Report any leaking faucets or running toilets to the appropriate contact in your office or place of work. A slow drip can waste 50 gallons of water per day! Using less water in your office means less water in the sewer system, making overflows during wet weather less likely.
- **Good Housekeeping:** Don't be a litterbug! Proper disposal of waste ensures that it won't make its way into waterbodies. Recycle whenever possible, in line with the City's sustainability initiative.
- **Support local efforts:** Support the efforts of the WPCA and your local government to control CSOs. Understand that there are many ways you can become involved in protecting water quality.
- **Volunteer:** Become involved with the efforts of local groups such as Save the Sound and the Pequonnock River Initiative.
- **If you see something, say something:** Report areas with flooding, clogged storm drains, or garbage to the Public Facilities Administration. Removal of garbage prevents it from entering the sewer system and making its way to waterbodies during storm events.
- **Pay Attention to Signs!** The City of Bridgeport has signs at its CSO locations. If you notice flow at these locations during dry weather, please contact the WPCA.
- **Automotive Care:** Maintain City fleet vehicles in a CSO friendly manner! Wash them at a commercial car wash or City provided facility whenever possible. This will minimize the amount of soapy water conveyed to local waterbodies. Be an advocate of proper disposal of waste! Recycle oil properly, and make sure it doesn't find its way into storm drains.
- **It's our city, we are all in this together!** Lead by example and spread the word. Tell your friends, neighbors, and coworkers what they can do to help.





## The workings of a CSO:

1. Excessive amounts of rain or snowmelt occurs.
2. Amount of wastewater exceeds the capacity of the sewer system or treatment plant.
3. When wastewater volumes exceed the regulator structure and capacity, the water is released directly to nearby waterways.
4. Bacteria, raw sewage, and other pollutants enter waterways and can affect public health, aquatic life, and recreation.
5. Avoid contact with water after a CSO event. Contact Bridgeport Health Department Health and Social Services for information on beach closings.

## What is the Bridgeport WPCA doing to address CSOs?

The Bridgeport WPCA has embarked on a multi-year program that will bring the entire combined sewer system into compliance with federal requirements including implementation of these “nine minimum controls”:

- Proper operation and regular maintenance programs for the sewer system and the CSOs
- Maximum use of the collection system for storage
- Review and modification of pre-treatment requirements to assure CSO impacts are minimized
- Maximum flow to wastewater treatment plants for treatment
- Prohibition of CSOs during dry weather
- Control of solid and floatable materials in CSOs
- Pollution prevention
- Public notification to ensure that the public receive adequate notification of CSO occurrences and impacts
- Monitoring to effectively characterize CSO impacts and the effectiveness of CSO controls

The Bridgeport WPCA has already prepared an updated Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) that identifies specific projects designed to achieve the objectives outlined in these nine minimum controls and reduce the overall occurrence of these CSOs. The LTCP includes the use of green infrastructure to prevent or delay stormwater from entering the system in the first place. Bridgeport is also conducting water quality sampling to collect baseline data which will be used to track our progress.

## Who should you contact?

If a CSO discharge occurs, you are encouraged to contact one of these agencies by phone or by regular mail if you have any questions or concerns about a CSO occurrence:

### Connecticut Department of Public Health

410 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06134  
Phone: (860) 509-8000

### City of Bridgeport Public Facilities Administration

999 Broad Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Phone: (203)-576-7130

### City of Bridgeport – Water Pollution Control Authority

695 Seaview Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06607  
Phone: 203-332-5550  
For sewer emergencies, call 203-576-7171

### City of Bridgeport

Department of Health & Social Services Administration  
City Hall Annex, 999 Broad Street Bridgeport, CT 06604  
Phone: (203) 576-7474

### Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
Phone: (860) 424-3000

