



OVERLAND FLOODING CONTROL

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to aid in the management and reduction of property damage caused by overland flooding and subsequent municipal sanitary sewer system backup due to rapid spring thawing followed by high volumes of precipitation.

Policy Statement:

To monitor overland flooding conditions to identify potential for municipal sanitary sewer system back-up and to establish a process for public notification.

Scope/Application:

Monitoring the capacity of the municipal sanitary sewer system outflow trunk is the responsibility of the Public Works department. Public notification of a potential surcharge of the sewer system is the responsibility of Administration.

Monitoring of weather conditions will dictate the sequence of events and duties required. The designated staff members will monitor the current weather conditions as well as a forecasted period of not less than 5 days.

- In the event that the current conditions are rapid melting mixed with heavy and or continuous precipitation; or the Flume depth is **5" inches** or more, the staff member must immediately initiate the action plan by:
 - contacting the Public Works Supervisor
 - begin daily and or twice daily monitoring of the sewage flume at the Vauxhall sanitary lagoon as directed
- Public Works Supervisor will review the data collected and inform the CAO as to the severity of the event.
- The CAO will report to the Town Council and initiate the notification process required (Mail out, Flyers or Door to Door)

Two indicators required to make informed decisions are the depth of sewage effluent in the Flume and Main lift Station pump hours.

FLUME

Stage 1

- **7" inches** of fluid in the Flume indicates a **100% increase** over the average flow to the lagoon system. At this point the **Public must be notified to reduce their effluent.**

Stage 2

- **9" inches** of fluid in the Flume indicates a **200% increase** to the average flow. **Residents with a history of sewer flooding must be informed immediately to aid in the prevention of property damage.**

Stage 3

- **14" inches** of fluid in the Flume indicates that the sanitary outfall trunk has become surcharged. **Flooding conditions are imminent without preventative measures in place within the home.**

Main Lift Pump Hours

Stage 1

- Prolonged pump runs of **3 hours** or more which extend more than **5 days**. **Public must be notified to reduce their effluent.**

Stage 2

- Prolonged pump runs of **3 hours** or more which extend more than **2 weeks** or pumps runs of **4 hours**. **Residents with a history of sewer flooding must be informed immediately to aid in the prevention of property damage.**

Notification Process:

Stage 1

- **Public must be notified to reduce their effluent**
Administration to notify the Town of potential for sanitary system surcharge and request community assistance by reducing their effluent. Notification to be in the form of a Notice to Public (Appendix A) and issued by:
 - bulk mailing by Canada Post
 - web page
 - community signage

Stage 2

- **Residents with a history of sewer flooding must be informed immediately to aid in the prevention of property damage**
Administrative staff will maintain a historical record of known sewer back-up locations. All properties listed will be notified of a potential for sewer back-up in the form of a phone call and/or written notice (Appendix B) delivered by:
 - hand delivery by public works
 - direct mailing

Stage 3

- **Flooding conditions are imminent without preventative measures in place within the home**
CAO to contact Alberta Emergency Management representative to investigate/initiate probability of provincial disaster assistance

NOTICE to PUBLIC

TOWN OF VAUXHALL

(APPENDIX A)

DATE:

Due to the amount of precipitation we have been experiencing, the Town of Vauxhall's sanitary system is measuring higher than normal levels of outfall as a direct result of ground water infiltration combined with weeping tile and sump pumps discharging into the system. While the condition is being closely monitored by Public Works staff and at this time the system is managing the overload, we ask that you help to reduce the amount of effluent being discharged from your household by minimizing showers, laundry, dishwasher and other similar activities while the high level of precipitation continues.

The Town also requests your assistance by inspecting eave troughs to ensure that they are fully extended away from your foundation and if at all possible to redirect your sump pump outflow from sanitary drainage to the back yard or storm water drainage system.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation as we work towards keeping all residents free from sanitary system overflow.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Town office at 403.654.2174.

NOTICE to PUBLIC

TOWN OF VAUXHALL

(APPENDIX B)

DATE:

As a result of the recent heavy rains, the Town of Vauxhall's sanitary system is measuring at higher than normal levels of outfall. While Public Works staff has been closely monitoring and controlling the situation to the best of their ability, there is a possibility that levels will climb to the point of unavoidable surcharging.

Your residence has been recorded by the Town office as having experienced prior overland flooding, seepage or sanitary system back-up. The Town advises that you begin to take preventative measures to minimize damages in the event that the municipal sewage system does overflow from a continuation of current conditions.

In the event that you do become affected, it is important as a first step you contact your insurance company to determine if flooding / seepage or sewer back-up is covered under your home insurance policy.

We suggest the following for those who experience flooding / seepage or back up problems:

- Notify the Town office
- Call insurance company to determine coverage levels
- TAKE PICTURES OF DAMAGE, DATE AND LABEL
- Keep good written records of your problem whether it is water seepage or sewer backup – time problem notices, time of any calls made, to whom you spoke with, and details of the call
- If you do any work yourself, keep track of the hours spent on each job
- Keep all receipts for any work done
- Water damage may cause health problems and individuals should make any necessary repairs to make sure your home is liveable

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the Town office at 403.654.2174.