

“ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ILLEGAL DISCHARGES”

What should I be looking for?

The following is a list of things which may be evidence of an illegal discharge to the stormwater (SW) system:

- Pipes or hoses draining to the SW system without an obvious source. (See photo ^{ES-3})
- Flowing water in SW ditches or pipes during the dry season or long periods of no rainfall.
- Stockpiles of solid wastes such as yard waste or trimmings in the SW system.
- Buckets or drums containing unknown or hazardous substances, or lead acid batteries on bare ground in direct vicinity of the SW system.



Illicit Pipe

What else should I look for if I notice any of the things listed above?

Look for any clues which might be an indication of contamination or deliberate dumping. Ask yourself:

- ✓ Has there been little to no rain in the last 48 hours?
- ✓ Are there discharges upstream?
- ✓ Is the water or outfall structure discolored?
- ✓ Is there a noticeable chemical or sewage smell?
- ✓ Is there any garbage, excessive foaming, or an oil sheen on the water's surface?
- ✓ Are there dead plants, fish, birds, or other small animals near the water?

What do I do next?

- If you have evidence of an illegal discharge, write down a description of what you observed in addition to where and when you witnessed it. Then contact the **Water Quality Division, Environmental Management Department @ (941)742-5980 or call the Citizen's Action Center at 742-5800.**
- If you witness someone dumping into the SW system, make notes of the number and descriptions of the people involved and any vehicle markings including, if possible, license plate numbers. Then contact the County Sheriff's Office at 911. For safety, **DO NOT TRY TO STOP IT YOURSELF!**

