

**Public Notice**  
**Sewage Spill**  
**Royal Oak, Maryland**  
**February 14, 2019**

On Tuesday, February 5, 2019, the Talbot County Sanitary District was notified that there could be a possible sewer leak at the intersection of Thorneton Road and Royal Oak Road (Maryland Route 329). The Sanitary District operators placed dye into one of the pump stations upstream of the valve vault and found that there was no immediate evidence of a leak near the valve vault nor in the ditches along Thorneton Road.

From February 5, 2019 to February 13, 2019, the Sanitary District operators continued to monitor the area and the valve vault. On February 13, 2019 the Sanitary District operators found evidence of a leak and a cracked pipe exiting the valve vault located at the intersection of Thorneton Road and Royal Oak Road (Maryland Route 329).

With approximately 60 homes using the force main that was cracked, the Sanitary District estimates approximately 1,500 gallons per day has leaked out of the system which consisted of untreated wastewater and stormwater entering the wastewater system due to the recent heavy rains. From February 5, 2019 to February 13, 2019 (8-days), an estimated 12,000 gallons of untreated wastewater leaked out of the system.

Since the Sanitary District cannot definitively state when the leak first occurred, an estimate of up to 24,000 gallons of untreated wastewater could have been discharged to the ground and then discharged to the nearby creek over a two-week period. On February 13, 2019, at 3:15 p.m. the Sanitary District reported the spill to the Maryland Department of the Environment and then reported the leak to the Office of Environmental Health who inspected the leak at approximately 3:45 p.m. In addition to contacting the regulatory agencies, the Sanitary District worked to secure a contractor to repair the leak.

The Office of Environmental Health investigated the discharge of untreated wastewater and confirmed with the Maryland Department of the Environment that there was no imminent public health threat as a result of the discharge of wastewater. If the public has any questions, they may contact the Office of Environmental Health at 410-770-6880 Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or after hours by contacting the Talbot County Operations Center at 410-822-0095, who will in turn contact the Environmental Health Specialist on call.

On February 14, 2019, Bridges Site and Utilities mobilized and initiated construction repairs to the force main in the morning hours. At approximately 2:00 p.m., Bridges Site and Utilities had excavated around the force main to isolate the location of the leak. It is anticipated that the leak will be fixed by the evening hours of February 14, 2019.

The Sanitary District would like to thank the citizens that called to report the leak. The Sanitary District has submitted a project to the Maryland Department of the Environment to install a remote sensing and reporting system that will help operators in the future in responding to leaks.

For any questions concerning the leak, please contact Ray Clarke, County Engineer, at 410-770-8170.

**TALBOT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**