

SOUTH PLACER MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT POLICIES

Policy Name:	3380 - DOMESTIC SEWER OVERFLOWS		
Approval Authority:	SPMUD BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Adopted:	05/06/2021
Resolution No.	21-14	Revised:	

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy to provide guidance to assist customers who experience a Domestic Sewer Overflow (DSO or sewage spill) inside their home or place of residence.

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 1. General

A Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) is any overflow, spill, release, discharge, or diversion of untreated or partially treated wastewater from the District’s sanitary sewer system. A Domestic Sewer Overflow (DSO) is the result of a sewer overflow of wastewater into a person’s home.

Potential health risks are associated with DSOs. Wastewater can contain many micro-organisms that may be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment, such as viruses, bacteria, fungal and parasitic organisms. Contact with wastewater or its products may cause exposure to pathogens (disease causing microorganisms) which can potentially lead to illnesses, for example:

- Gastroenteritis (diarrhea or vomiting);
- Giardiasis and Cryptosporidiosis (severe stomach cramps, diarrhea or vomiting);
- Viral infections such as hepatitis (liver infections); and
- Infections of the skin or eyes.

Section 2. Responsibility and Liability

The District will assume responsibility for mitigating a Domestic Sewer Overflow if it is a result of a Sanitary Sewer Overflow for which the District is determined to be responsible, occurring either in the sewer main or lower lateral.

All DSOs for which the District is determined to be responsible shall be reported to the District’s liability carrier, SDRMA, regardless of the amount of the spill or estimate of the damage. A claim for damages shall be presented to the District in accordance with the California Tort Claims Act (Government Code Section 910, *et seq.*) and District Policy No. 1040.

The District assumes no liability or responsibility for a DSO that is the result of the property owner’s, tenant’s, or other occupant’s actions, occurs on a portion of the sanitary sewer that is outside of the District’s maintenance responsibility and not caused by District activity or is the result of activity by the property owner, tenant, occupant or third party that has damaged or precluded access to the lower lateral or the property-line-clean-out (PLCO).

An agreement to cover mitigation costs is not an admission of guilt.

Section 3. Clean Up

When determined to be responsible for a DSO, the District or its insurer will contract with a restoration firm that has experience with the clean-up of domestic sewage overflow to clean up and remediate the spill and/or reimburse the customer for clean-up expenses at fair market value that were incurred by the customer.

Section 4. Accommodation

A. Lodging - In situations where the premise has become uninhabitable, and the District has determined that it is responsible for the sewer overflow, the District or its insurer will immediately make available temporary alternate accommodations for the owner/s or occupant/s (as applicable) for the duration of premises clean up and remediation. The District will maintain a list of suitable hotels within five miles of the boundaries of the District that will be used for such accommodations. The selection of hotels will not be based on cost alone. The District will only pay for the room(s) and applicable taxes. All other incidental charges at the hotel must be paid for by the homeowner(s)/occupant(s) and may be reimbursed in accordance with Section 4.B. Alternately, the District will reimburse the customer for lodging expenses incurred by the customer up to the [State of California SEIU Short-Term Lodging Reimbursement Rates](#).

B. Meals - Meals and associated expenses will be reimbursed based upon actual costs, not to exceed the U.S. General Service Administration (GSA) Per Diem Meals & Incidentals expense rates for the local area.