



01 HIGHWAY LIGHTING RESTORATION AFTER COPPER THEFT

The City of Tulsa is responsible for maintaining highway lighting on all highway systems in the city limits. Theft of copper wiring to the lights over the past two years has darkened many of these highways. At one point, 34 miles of copper wire had been stolen.

For about the past year and a half, the City of Tulsa has fought back. Tulsa Police created a task force that led to 19 arrests for highway copper theft. And by the end of 2017, the Streets and Stormwater Department had repaired 85 percent of the damaged lighting systems, completing Phase I of the project – all highways except the Broken Arrow Expressway and Inner Dispersal Loop (IDL).

Work is currently in progress on Phase II of the project – the B.A. Expressway and IDL; completion of Phase II is scheduled for late 2018. To deter thieves, crews have replaced the copper wires with aluminum and put stickers on each pole stating – in English and Spanish – “We use aluminum.”

Repairing the highway lighting systems has cost the City of Tulsa nearly \$10 million – way over the usual \$70,000 annual maintenance budget. The repair cost includes not only replacing copper wire with aluminum, but also replacing conduits either broken by thieves or deteriorated with age.

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+ PLUS: PREPARE TO BE SAFE IN WINTER STORMS

WWW.CITYOFTULSA.ORG | TULSA311@CITYOFTULSA.ORG | CALL 311

02 SAVE OUR STREAMS KEEP STORM SEWERS POLLUTANT-FREE

The City of Tulsa’s storm sewer system is the series of outside drains located in our streets that route rainwater to creeks, lakes and rivers. The water that goes into these drains is not cleaned or treated before it reaches them. This makes it very important to not let pollutants spill on the ground and enter our storm sewer system.

City workers regularly monitor the system for pollution. Crews also routinely remove debris from drains and sewers to prevent water from backing up into streets and homes. It is illegal to introduce pollutants into the system. Pollutants include lawn chemicals, car fluids, soaps, leaves and grass, pet waste and basically anything that isn’t pure rainwater.

It is important to protect the quality and control the quantity of the water flowing into the drainage system. Here are steps you can take to protect Tulsa’s creeks and reduce flood risks.

- **Maintain vehicles to prevent fluid leaks. Don’t pour used motor oil, antifreeze, pesticides or other pollutants into storm drains.**
- **Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the sanitary sewer, throw it in the trash or bury it in the yard to prevent harmful bacteria from entering our storm sewer system.**
- **Use a mulching mower or bag grass and leaves instead of blowing them into streets. Yard wastes clog storm drains and deplete oxygen in the water. Fish need oxygen to survive.**
- **Apply fertilizers and pesticides properly. Read labels to determine how much and when to apply. The Master Gardener program has volunteers trained to answer questions about pesticides and fertilizers. Call the Master Gardener Hotline at (918) 746-3701 or visit: www.tulsamastergardeners.org**
- **Pick up litter around your home or business so that it doesn’t collect on drain inlets or clog sewer pipes.**
- **Report storm drain issues such as blockage, improper disposal of yard wastes and/or illegal fluid discharges by calling 311 or visiting www.Tulsa311.com**



03 SEWAGE OVERFLOW

REPORT BACKUPS/PREVENT BLOCKAGES

If you see, hear, or smell anything that may be a sewage overflow or backup in your home, call (918) 586-6999. The City's Sewer Operations and Maintenance Department is available to take your call around the clock. If needed, our work crews can inspect and take action. When calling, please be ready to describe where you see the overflow. Helpful details include an address and a specific location such as a street intersection, backyard, alleyway, garage drain, etc.

To prevent many of these sewer line blockages, never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain. These materials harden and block your sewage lines, causing costly plumbing repairs to your private lines. Fats, oils, and grease also create problems for your neighbors when the blockages occur in the City's lines. Proper disposal is easy. Just pour fats, oils and grease into a coffee can or other durable container and place in your trash.

Other problematic items include disposable wipes (also known as flushable wipes), prophylactics, and personal hygiene products. Although these products may flush from your toilet, they cause maintenance issues for our sanitary sewer system.

The Water & Sewer Department cleans approximately 600 miles of sanitary sewer lines each year, but we still need your help in preventing sewer overflows. For more details, visit: www.trapthegreasetulsa.com

WINTER PREPAREDNESS

MAKE SAFETY YOUR TOP PRIORITY

Each year, Tulsa usually experiences a few winter storms with potentially hazardous conditions. Here are some steps for readiness in case of winter storms.*

HAVE A PLAN

- **Discuss with your family what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued. Download the TulsaReady App on your phone.**
- **Check that family, friends, neighbors, especially the elderly, are prepared.**
- **Remember your pets. Make sure they have food, water and shelter.**
- **Have your car winterized by checking antifreeze, washer blades, tire pressure, etc.**

IF YOU MUST GO OUT IN A WINTER STORM, ASSEMBLE A KIT FOR YOUR CAR INCLUDING:

- **Cell phone with extra battery or two-way radio**
- **Windshield scraper and small broom for ice and snow removal**
- **Blankets or sleeping bags**
- **Rain gear and extra sets of dry clothing, mittens or gloves, socks and a cap**
- **Non-perishable snacks like dried fruit or nuts**
- **Bottled water**
- **Sand or cat litter for generating traction under wheels and a set of tire chains or traction mats**
- **Jumper cables, flashlight with extra batteries and first aid kit**

* Source: Tulsa Area Emergency Management Agency, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management, www.ready.gov



04 RE-USING BIOSOLIDS

WASTEWATER RESIDUALS AS FERTILIZER

Did you know that municipal wastewater treatment plants in Tulsa separate the liquid and residual portions of wastewater for processing and treatment? Biosolids are the residuals that have undergone additional treatment (stabilization) to prepare them for environmentally acceptable beneficial use or disposal.

The City's biosolids are stabilized and applied to land in an environmentally acceptable manner in compliance with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) regulations. Land application of biosolids is a common disposal method that has been used for decades. It involves spreading the biosolids on the soil surface or injecting them into the soil. Biosolids enrich the soil by providing organic matter and nutrients needed for crops. The most common crop utilizing biosolids is pasture land used for hay production.

Applying biosolids to land is another way the City of Tulsa's Water and Sewer Department strives for sustainability with our resources. We are able to save landfill space, provide a beneficial product for the local community, and reduce cost of service for our customers.

For additional information about the City of Tulsa's Biosolids Program, please call the City's Customer Care Center at 311.