July 15, 2019

South Alabama Utilities reports Sanitary Sewer Overflow

MOBILE, Alabama — South Alabama Utilities responded to a Sanitary Sewer Overflow on Monday. The leak occurred 3,100 feet south of Airport Boulevard on Johnson Road West at the culvert crossing of an unidentified tributary feeding into Miller Creek. Company officials estimate the overflow amount to be between 1,000 and 10,000 gallons.

South Alabama Utilities officials say a contractor working on a pavement project on Johnson Road West hit the force main pipe (which contains pre-treated sewer from septic tanks) leading to the Miller Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant. Lines had been located properly, and the contractor was shown the pipeline by post-hole to determine the depth. An excavator bucket struck the pipe and damaged approximately a 5-foot section. The leak was isolated by valves and stopped within 20 minutes.

Dr. Bernard H. Eichold II, Health Officer for Mobile County, advises area residents to take precautions when coming into contact with any standing water that may have accumulated as a result of this overflow. Those who have come into direct contact with untreated sewage are advised to wash their hands and clothing thoroughly.

Area residents should take precautions when using Miller Creek for recreational purposes because of the overflow. All seafood harvested in this general area should be thoroughly cooked before eating. People should wash hands after cleaning seafood and before preparing food.

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