

## RESOLUTION No. 11-08

### ROLL CALL

VOTING	YES	NO
G. WAYNE ANDERSEN <i>Mayor (votes only in case of tie)</i>		
ROD DART <i>Council member</i>	X	
RICHARD M. DAVIS <i>Council member</i>	X	
STEVE LEIFSON <i>Council member</i>	X	
JENS P. NIELSON <i>Council member</i>	X	
KEIR A. SCUBES <i>Council member</i>	X	

I MOVE this resolution be adopted: Council member Davis

I SECOND the foregoing motion: Councilmember Nielson

## RESOLUTION No. 11-08

### A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A SEWER BACKUP NO-FAULT ASSISTANCE POLICY

WHEREAS Spanish Fork City owns and operates a sewer collection utility; and,

WHEREAS Spanish Fork residents have the capability to drain, flush, or otherwise have the ability to put many items into the sewer system that don't normally belong there; and

WHEREAS sewer man holes are required for normal operation and maintenance of the sewer system; and

WHEREAS a sewer man holed can be lifted and foreign objects dropped into the sewer line; and

WHEREAS Spanish Fork City has adopted and follows a regular sewer maintenance program; and

WHEREAS sewer back-ups can occur even shortly after regular maintenance, depending on what incompatible items are improperly placed in the sewer lines; and

WHEREAS Spanish Fork City and its residents are not liable for such backups;

WHEREAS Spanish Fork City also owns and operates a storm water system and other water utilities; and

WHEREAS foreign items, such as leaves, sticks, paper, buckets, large debris, etc., can enter the storm water system causing storm water to overflow into yards and homes, with little or no notice to the homeowners or to the City; and

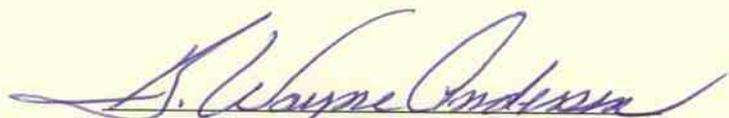
WHEREAS underground water lines may break at any time, causing water to overflow into the streets and possibly into yards and homes; and

WHEREAS Spanish Fork City and its residents are not liable for such incidents;

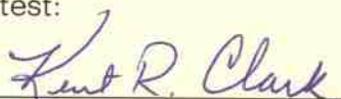
THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Spanish Fork City Council as follows: that on October 4, 2011, the Spanish Fork City Council adopted a Sewer Backup No-Fault Assistance Policy.

1. A Sewer Backup No-Fault Assistance Policy is hereby adopted as attached hereto.

Dated this 4<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011.

  
G. WAYNE ANDERSEN, Mayor

Attest:

  
KENT R. CLARK, City Recorder





## Public Works Department Sewer Backup No-Fault Assistance

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Spanish Fork City and its employees will help to alleviate some of the problems created by this unfortunate backup. City employees are working hard and have cleared any clogs that have occurred in the main line. These clogs result for many different reasons: paper towels, grease, food waste, feminine products or other insoluble objects that may have been flushed or otherwise put into the sewer system.

The City follows a sewer maintenance program and sewer lines are regularly cleaned. Because foreign objects do not belong in the sewer system and because they can be put into the sewer system at any time, the City is not liable for this sewer backup.

The City recognizes that you are likely not responsible as well, therefore the City will provide **limited assistance** through its no-fault assistance program. The goal of this assistance is to help offset some of the expenses you will have to clean your home and make it habitable again. This assistance is not meant to replace insurance if you have it nor is it meant to act like insurance. You are encouraged to review your homeowner's insurance policy, if coverage exists, any assistance given would be secondary to insurance payments. The City will not review any invoices for clean-up, reconstruction, or for personal items. Once an assistance check is paid, the City will no longer be involved in the clean up or repair of your home.

An employee from the City, typically the Assistant City Manager, will be in touch with you immediately. Someone from the City's Risk Pool will also be in touch. Either of these two individuals will review the damage in your home and prepare an assistance estimate. They will inform you what assistance is authorized and they will prepare a check for you.

Based on the total area affected, assistance will be offered from \$0 to a maximum of \$7,500. Residents should not expect that the maximum amount will be given in their situation. Remember, this is given to assist, not to cover all expenses.

In order for a check to be given, the resident must review and sign a Release and Covenant Not to Sue. This release form will be created by the City.

### Clean-up

The next step for you to consider is the clean-up of your home. If you want to call a restoration company, you may do so. You will make that decision because you will hire them and pay whatever associated costs there may be. Please be aware that many companies may recommend doing more work than may be necessary because they are

paid by the volume of work done. Remember that this is your home and you direct what work is done. Be sure you are comfortable with the prices before you allow any work to begin. You will pay the bill. You can use any money the City may have given you to offset these costs, but the City will not participate any further in the process.

You may find a cleaning company by recommendation from an insurance agent, a friend or some other source.

### **Filing a Claim**

This no-fault assistance policy is the limit of what the City will offer, and it is given to help residents even though there is no legal obligation. Because of this, any additional claims filed against the City will be denied. In addition, if a resident chooses to reject this assistance by refusing to sign the release form, the City reserves the right to withdraw any assistance given by this policy.

### **Contact Information**

Don Stoneman  
Sewer Division Lead  
801/921-9853

Ed Roberts  
Sewer Division Foreman  
801/921-9856  
[eroberts@spanishfork.org](mailto:eroberts@spanishfork.org)

Jamie Chappel  
Sewer Division Manager  
801/921-9854  
[jchappel@spanishfork.org](mailto:jchappel@spanishfork.org)



## Utah County Health Department Sewage Backup Information Sheet

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### **What is Sewage?**

Sewage is all waste water that normally drains into collection lines, which can range from the kitchen sink to washing machines to toilets. Characteristically, sewage will contain food particles, soaps, cleaners and other chemicals, soil particles, microbes, and feces. Sewage also contains many solids termed as rag, which are varied, but often consist of paper, cloth and latex. Associated with this waste and microbes are many gases including: methane, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and other sulfur compounds characteristically noted as rotten egg gas.

### **Personal Precautions**

While in a home, the gases formed would rarely produce a concentration dangerous to health. Keep in mind that these gases should be vented using doors, windows and vent fans as necessary. If the depth of water on the floors warrants it, use rubber boots – regardless of the depth, one should always wear some type of protective foot wear. In cleaning, the use of rubber gloves is recommended and one should always wash hands BEFORE touching the face, eating, and using the restroom. Hand washing with any soap involving a THOROUGH lathering and rinse in warm water should suffice.

While a person should always be up to date on routine immunizations such as tetanus and diphtheria, other immunizations for Hepatitis A, typhoid etc., are currently not specially recommended for exposure to raw sewage.

### **Use of Area**

Families should not live in areas affected by sewage. Special precautions should be taken with the very young and old as well as with any immuno-compromised individuals. If you cannot isolate the affected area by closing doors and ventilation, the home should not be lived in until basic cleaning and disinfecting can take place.

### **Clean Up**

Any soiled textile such as carpets, clothing and upholstery require varied cleaning techniques as varied as the textiles themselves. Some common practices are outlined below, but it is recommended that a specialist in flood recovery or another such licensed business be consulted. While carpets and upholstery, under some conditions, can be sufficiently cleaned and disinfected, the padding needs to be disposed of in a sanitary manner.

For clothing and linens affected, washing them in very hot water, approximately 180° F, will disinfect. Alternately, following normal washing, a one minute rinse in cool water containing bleach will disinfect.

Recommended household bleach and water mixes:

1-2 teaspoons per gallon

¼ cup for 10 gallons

½ cup for a full 20 gallon wash load

Cleaning of smooth surfaces such as floors, walls, shelves and other such items should follow three steps: (1) cleaning with soap and water, followed by (2) rinsing with clean water followed by (3) disinfection with the water and bleach concentrations listed above. Allow the disinfected area to air dry. Cleaning with soap and water will keep your bleach water clear but if it becomes soiled, replenish it with a new solution. Please note that there are commercial disinfectants that may not be as harsh as bleach. Read labels and carefully follow directions, making sure not to mix your chemicals. Thorough drying will help the disinfection process and reduce the growth of mold, mildews and bacteria in coming days.

Special precaution should be taken with porous material such as unfinished wood paneling and dry wall. You may wish to consult a professional cleaning company and an insurance adjuster for guidelines in this area.

For further assistance or information, please contact the Utah County Health Department, Bureau of Environmental Health at 851-7525. This material was taken from a Utah County Health Department publication.