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# News Release

"We work together to build and maintain a community of the highest quality for present and future generations."

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Sanitary Sewer Overflow May Impact Abilene Residents

ABILENE, Texas - The City of Abilene Water Department has experienced a spill of domestic wastewater from the City's wastewater collection system. City personnel are working diligently to resolve the problem.

The spill occurred in a remote area in the general vicinity of 650 Colonial Drive and has spread onto adjacent open pasture land where it is currently contained. At this time the spill has not reached the nearby Elm Creek. The spill, estimated volume of 300,000 gallons, is estimated to have occurred around 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 due to a collapse of an aging and deteriorating brick manhole. Personnel have implemented a replacement of the manhole and normal operations have been achieved.

City personnel have notified the appropriate local governmental officials and the TCEQ Regional Office 3.

"We want to assure the public that our drinking water is safe to consume and receives complete treatment at the City's water treatment plants," said Water Utilities Director Rodney Taylor.

"Although this spill has occurred adjacent to Elm Creek, which feeds into Lake Fort Phantom Hill, the water supply is appropriately monitored and is safe. All water treated by the Abilene Water Department receives complete treatment in accordance with state and federal regulations and meets the Primary Drinking Water Standards, as established by the EPA."

**Persons using private drinking water supply wells located within ½ mile of the spill site or within the potentially affected area should only use water that has been distilled or boiled at a rolling boil for at least one minute for all personal uses including drinking, cooking, bathing, and tooth brushing. Individuals with private water wells should have their well water tested and disinfected, if necessary, prior to discontinuing distillation or boiling.**

The water supplied by the City of Abilene, whether directly through your faucet or provided to a wholesale customer, is safe to drink and may be used for personal use.

The public should avoid contact with the waste material, soil, or water in the area potentially affected by the spill. If the public comes into contact with waste material, soil, or water potentially affected by the spill, they should bathe and thoroughly wash clothes as soon as possible.

For questions, please contact the City of Abilene Water Department at 325-676-6419. For questions or information after hours, please call the Water Department Emergency contact number at 325-676-6000.

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