



# ESD NEWS

FALL/WINTER 2025

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# Introduction to the Environmental & Safety Division

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The Environmental & Safety Division (ESD) ensures that City water and wastewater facilities protect public health and the environment by maintaining compliance with environmental laws, and by providing high quality and reliable services to the Department, City staff, and the public.

The division is comprised of various sections to include:

- **Business Operations:** Administrative, community outreach, laboratory safety, and environmental training coordination.
- **Compliance:** Air, hazardous material, wastewater, and water regulatory compliance.
- **Laboratory:** Analytical testing of water and wastewater. Licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and certified by The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP).
- **Monitoring:** Monitoring and sampling of water and wastewater accredited by The National Environmental Field Accreditation Program.
- **Pollution, Prevention & Permitting:** Commercial, Industrial Pretreatment, and Stormwater programs conduct inspections, prevention, permitting, and sampling.
- **Quality Assurance:** Quality assurance, compliance, and monitoring.
- **Safety:** Safety oversight and training for all Water Services Department employees.



# Don't Let Fats, Oils & Grease Ruin the Holiday Cheer!

The holidays are a time for family, food, and festive fun—not plumbing problems! But all that cooking can lead to a not-so-jolly guest in your pipes: FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease).

When FOG goes down the drain, it cools, hardens, and clings to pipes like that one relative who *never* leaves. Eventually, it causes nasty clogs, backups, and even sewer overflows. Yikes!

But don't worry—you can be a Holiday Hero with ***these simple tips:***



**Don't Dump It:** Pour used grease into a can or jar, mix in coffee grounds or kitty litter, and toss it in the trash once it cools.



**Skip the Garbage Disposal:** It might grind food, but it doesn't stop grease from sliding into the sewer. FOG still finds a way!



**Wipe Before You Wash:** Scrape and wipe pots, pans, and dishes with a paper towel before rinsing. Less mess, less stress!



**Use a Drain Screen:** Catch those sneaky food bits before they go down the drain. Solids often carry fats that add to the gunk.



**Bonus Tip:** Dry clean up first—wet clean up second. Your pipes will thank you! Let's keep the holidays merry, bright, and clog-free.

Learn more at [phoenix.gov/esd](https://phoenix.gov/esd) ➔





# “Stop Poo-lution” Campaign Shows Early Promise in Phoenix Parks

The City of Phoenix is stepping up efforts to tackle improper pet waste disposal in parks and trails—an issue that affects both public health and stormwater quality.

As part of its AZPDES MS4 Permit compliance, the City launched a behavior-based outreach campaign focused on high-traffic areas like Pima Canyon and Telegraph Pass.

Branded with the catchy slogan “Stop Poo-lution: Bag it. Tie it. Trash it.”, the campaign included on-site engagement, educational kits, and a strong presence from staff and volunteers. A mix of social media, direct outreach, and media coverage helped spread the word.

To measure impact, the City collected data before and after the campaign. While overall pet waste increased due to higher trail use, the rate of improper disposal per 100 visitors dropped by nearly 30% at Pima Canyon and 8% at Telegraph Pass—a promising trend, though not yet statistically significant.

In a related effort, Phoenix Water also partnered with Downtown Phoenix, Inc. to install 17 new pet waste stations and launch an educational program to reduce stormwater pollution in the downtown area.

These initiatives were highlighted during Stormwater Awareness Week (Sept. 22–27).





# Partnering for Pollution Prevention: Supporting Salvage Yards in Environmental Compliance

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The ESD Stormwater Section is proud to collaborate with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to educate salvage yard operators on the importance of complying with federal, state, and local environmental regulations. This partnership aims to prevent pollution, promote best management practices, and protect Arizona's vital water resources for future generations.

To learn more visit:

[azdeq.gov/swppp](https://azdeq.gov/swppp)



[epa.gov/region9](https://epa.gov/region9)



[phoenix.gov/stormwater](https://phoenix.gov/stormwater)



# CONTACT US

VISIT US AT [PHOENIX.GOV/ESD](https://phoenix.gov/esd) ➔

**Email:** [ask.water@phoenix.gov](mailto:ask.water@phoenix.gov)

**Clogged Storm Drains:** 602-256-3190

**Drinking Water Compliance:** 602-262-5012

**Stormwater Hotline:** 602-256-3190

**Commercial Hotline:** 602-495-7412

**Environmental Services Division:** 602-262-1859

**To report illegal storm drain dumping:**

[phoenix.gov/stormwater](https://phoenix.gov/stormwater) | 602-256-3190

**For more information on Cease the Grease  
or F.O.G. recycling programs:**

[phoenix.gov/esd](https://phoenix.gov/esd) | 602-262-7251

**For water or sewer emergencies:**

602-262-6251 (8am-5pm)

602-261-8000 (Evenings and weekends)



[PHOENIX.GOV/WATER](https://phoenix.gov/water)

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