

01 PREPAREDNESS IS KEY

PLAN FOR FLOODS OR OTHER DISASTERS

During National Preparedness Month in September, remember to plan for your household and business. It's wise to assemble an emergency kit and have it ready if you need to evacuate. For more information about an emergency plan and emergency kit, visit: www.ready.gov/make-a-plan and www.ready.gov/build-a-kit.

Be alert when storms approach. Access local news stations and follow weather updates. Download the Tulsa Ready app and listen for emergency sirens.

The flood siren will be an alternating high-low tone; the tornado siren will be a steady, one-note tone. The flood siren is activated when the National Weather Service issues a flood warning for Tulsa and/or flooding of creeks or river channels has been verified and structures are threatened. The tornado siren is activated when the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning including Tulsa, and/or the National Weather Service forecasts 80-mile-per-hour winds within 30 minutes of Tulsa.

Upon hearing the flood or tornado siren, residents should immediately move to higher ground in case of flood or go to their best available shelter from a tornado. Then continue to monitor weather radios and the broadcast media for further information.

When seeking shelter during severe weather, avoid flood prone areas. During any flood or high-water event, motorists should avoid driving through flood waters, and remember to "Turn Around, Don't Drown."

Know your risk of flooding. To find out if your home or business is in a floodplain, visit maps.cityoftulsa.org/floodplains. Also visit www.floodsmart.gov to find out what you can do about your flood risk. Buy a flood insurance policy. Property owners and renters in the city limits of Tulsa are eligible for a 45% discount on flood insurance.

City stormwater engineers are available to visit your property and give recommendations on how to improve drainage. They also will explain why you need flood insurance. For more information, contact the Customer Care Center at **311** or **(918) 596-7777** (outside city limits).



CITY LIFE

SEPTEMBER 2023

IN THIS EDITION OF CITY LIFE

01 PREPAREDNESS MONTH ----- Have an emergency plan and make a kit in case of floods or other disasters.	02 DISPOSE OF PET WASTE ----- Picking up your pet's waste will help keep bacteria out of stormwater.
03 POLLUTANT DISPOSAL ----- Bring chemicals to the Tulsa Household Pollutant Collection Facility.	04 MEDICATION DISPOSAL ----- Leftover medications may be dangerous if abused; choose proper disposal.

+ PLUS: WHEN EMPTYING POOL, AVOID STORM DRAINS.

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02 PET WASTE DISPOSAL

HELP KEEP STORMWATER RUNOFF CLEAN

Stormwater runoff from our yards enters the city's storm drain system, which empties into the creeks, streams and rivers in the City of Tulsa. Pet waste enters these waterways by way of stormwater runoff.

The City of Tulsa monitors and regularly samples streams and stormwater outfalls for dozens of potential pollutants and uses Bacterial Source Tracking to help identify pollutant sources. In several Tulsa creeks, test results show that human and dog wastes are the leading sources of bacterial pollution.

As a pet owner, you can help keep creeks free of pollutants by picking up your pet's waste. Take a plastic bag or pooper scooper along on your walk. To reduce potential health hazards to our streams, here's how to dispose of pet waste:

- **Flush it into the sanitary sewer,**
- **Bury it in your yard, or**
- **Throw it in the trash.**

Save our streams. Disposal of anything other than stormwater to the storm drain system is a violation of city ordinances. To help keep our waterways clean and healthy, report to **311** any sewer overflow or unusual discharge to the storm drain system.

03 POLLUTANT DISPOSAL

BRING CHEMICALS TO CITY FACILITY

Ridding your home of chemicals and potentially hazardous items creates a safer home environment. Many of the chemicals we have in our households could be considered hazardous if used or disposed of in an improper way. The City of Tulsa Household Pollutant Collection Facility at 4502 S. Galveston Ave. is open for disposal of these items Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 - 11:30 a.m. and noon - 4:30 p.m., excluding City holidays.

Tulsa residents may dispose of pollutants free at the facility. Non-Tulsa residents served by the Metropolitan Environmental Trust can get vouchers to dispose of up to 45 pounds before fees apply; call (918) 584-0584. A Swap Shop at the facility is open for customers to take up to five items.

The Household Pollutant Collection Facility is open for residential customers but not businesses disposing of commercial wastes. For more information about household pollutant disposal in Tulsa, visit: www.cityoftulsa.org/resource/recovery

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Oil-based paints and thinners
- Latex paint
- Automotive fluids, flammable liquids
- Fluorescent and CFL lightbulbs
- Cooking oil/grease
- Aerosols, household cleaners
- Household and car batteries
- Pool and lawn chemicals
- Small electronics, mercury thermostats

NON-ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Large electronics (TVs, monitors, computers)
- Industrial or commercial waste
- Medical or biomedical waste (syringes, needles)
- Asbestos
- Food or organic waste
- Radioactive material
- Ammunition, explosives
- Tires
- Unknown materials or substances

SUMMER'S LAST DAYS

TIME TO DRAIN THE SWIMMING POOL

Summer weather in Oklahoma often stretches past Labor Day for a few weeks in September. When summer does come to an end, many Tulsa residents will empty their pools.

When draining a swimming pool, there are best practices to follow for taking care of Tulsa's environment. Pool water should not be discharged to the storm drain, as the water may contain harmful chemicals that are toxic to our environment and wildlife.

Remember: storm drains flow to Tulsa's creeks and rivers, where fish and other creatures live. Pool water can be toxic if ingested, and if it is poured into the stormwater drainage system, it will get into neighboring creeks and can kill off aquatic animals.

Safe ways to dispose of pool water include pouring it on your lawn and letting it soak into the grass or pouring it down the sanitary sewer system. After you have finished your last chemical treatment for the pool this season, wait at least 72 hours before disposing of pool water either on your lawn or in the sanitary sewer system. By waiting to dispose of pool chemicals, you lessen the risk of adding more chemicals onto your lawn or in the sewer system.

According to City ordinance, anything that is not pure rain water is illegal to discharge into the storm drainage system. If you see someone illegally dumping into a storm drain, please report it by calling 311 or sending an email to Tulsa311@cityoftulsa.org



04 SAFE MEDICINE DISPOSAL

NEVER FLUSH MEDS DOWN TOILETS

Proper disposal of unused medications benefits people's health and the environment. Medications should not be left around the house, available for possible misuse by family members.

Also, medications should not be flushed down toilets. Our wastewater treatment plants are unable to remove the chemicals found in medications, and so trace amounts of these drugs are discharged into local streams. Long-term exposure to these chemicals can harm aquatic wildlife.

Tulsa participates in two National Drug Take-Back Events each year: spring and fall. The next event will be in fall 2023.

Citizens can also take unwanted prescription drugs to one of the three Tulsa Police Division headquarters and to the Tulsa County Sheriff's office any time of the year, Monday through Friday, except for holidays. Locations and hours include:

- **Tulsa Police Gilcrease Division, 3436 N. Delaware Ave., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- **Tulsa Police Mingo Valley Division, 10122 E. 11th St., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- **Tulsa Police Riverside Division, 7515 S. Riverside Dr., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**
- **Tulsa County Sheriff – 303 W. First St., 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.**