

Special Events Permitting Letter Regarding Illicit Discharge



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Establishments and street vendors that prepare and serve food are currently very much under the microscope of the Environmental Protection Agency. Much of this has to do with the methods of handling and disposal of the by-product of the food service industry, such as waste cooking oil and grease. Any disposal method in which waste cooking oil and grease can be spilled or leaked onto the ground can result in damage to the water table, and ultimately to the nation's water supply and marine plant and animal life. All of our food establishments within the city are required to follow strict rules for disposal. That being said, the same rules apply to street vendors during festivals and events.

On several occasions after festivals and events have ended, the City of University Place crews have had to clean up after vendors who have dumped grease or other food waste on the street or into a storm water catch basin. This year we want it to be clear that all food vendors are required to have an absorbent pad, or cardboard, under their work area to avoid grease and other ingredient spills. It is also suggested that you have a canvas type tarp (such as a painter's tarp) underneath the absorbent pad. This will apply to any outside food preparation.

While this may sound like a small thing, it is still a fact that every little bit of contamination can contribute to what would eventually become an unhealthy environment for all of us. In accordance with federally mandated standards, the City of University Place has adopted an "Illicit Discharge" ordinance (UPMC Title 12.10) (12.10.030) which prohibits the discharge, pouring, or otherwise allowing anything other but rainwater to be deposited on the ground or down the storm drain. The ordinance also makes the responsible person or establishment financially liable for the cost of clean-up and/or decontamination following the illicit discharge. The complete language of this ordinance may be found on the City of University Place's web site in the Municipal Code at [UPMC Chapter 12.10](#)

It's that time of year again for sunshine and fun! Let's focus on that and not having to clean up spills.

Your cooperation in this area is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Todd Smith, City of University Place, NPDES Coordinator, tsmith@cityofup.com, 253.460.5432 office, 253.677.1422 cell.

By signing below, I acknowledge receipt and understanding of this letter:

Food Vendor Business Name: _____

Food Vendor Owner Name: _____

Event Name and Dates: _____

Signature: _____ **Date Signed:** _____