



Sewage Release Reporting Fact Sheet for Municipalities August 14, 2024

1. What to do when a sewage spill/release or bypass occurs:

An Operator of a sewage treatment facility or sewer collection system must complete two separate types of reporting to DEEP when a release of sewage occurs:

- a. Within one hour: Connecticut General Statute (CGS) requires that if a release exceeds 100 gallons within a 24-hour period OR reaches a waterway, wetland, or catch basin the reporter must call the DEEP Emergency Response Unit at 860-424-3338 or toll-free 1-866-DEP-SPIL (1-866-337-7745), 24 hours/day. When a call is made, record the time called, the name of the DEEP staff you spoke with and the case number.
- b. Within two hours: CGS Section 22a-424a(c)(2) and (e) requires that all sewage spills/bypasses must be reported via an electronic report to DEEP. See Section 3 below for further information on how to report to DEEP electronically to meet Sewage Right-to-Know (SRTK) requirements.

2. Applicable statutory/ regulatory references:

***Note that each legal requirement has a specific focus** – the objective of CGS Sec. 22a-424a reporting is to provide real-time notification of the public. The Immediate Reporting requirements of CGS Sec. 22a-450 are focused on reporting to DEEP for its consideration of the impact to the environment and necessary emergency response action(s).

- a. **Immediate Reporting of Any Pollution Incident:** CGS Sec. 22a-450 requires [the immediate reporting of any pollution incident](#) which causes the discharge, spillage, uncontrolled loss, seepage or filtration of oil or petroleum or chemical liquids or solid, liquid or gaseous products or hazardous wastes, to DEEP's Emergency Response Unit at 860-424-3338 or toll free 1-866-DEP-SPIL (1-866-337-7745), 24 hours/day. Should this number become unavailable for any reason, call 860-424-3333. In 2022, [CGS Section 22a-450](#) release reporting requirements were updated, as explained in [Reporting Requirements for Spill Incidents \(ct.gov\)](#). Further information on this reporting can be found at: [Emergency Response and Spill Prevention \(ct.gov\)](#)

- b. Sewage Right-to-Know (SRTK):** CGS Sec. 22a-424a requires any operator of a sewage treatment plant or collection system (“Operator”) to report all sewage spills/bypasses from the sewage treatment plant or collection system(s) to DEEP and give notice to the municipal chief elected official (CEO), local public health official, and the local health official of any potentially impacted downstream municipality. More information on reporting and public information on sewage spills/bypasses can be found at: [CT Sewage Right-to-Know](#).

3. Sewage Right-to-Know – How to Report:

Sign Up to Report Electronically

If you have already completed the process described below to authorize electronic reporting, no additional action is necessary unless personnel changes occur. However, if an Operator has not completed the process to register for electronic reporting, the Operator is strongly advised to do so immediately to be in compliance.

1. Submit a Subscriber Agreement to Authorize Electronic Reporters
2. Complete the online training
3. Receive Reporting Credentials from DEEP

[CT DEEP Electronic Bypass Reporting](#) contains more information on how to sign up for electronic sewage bypass reporting.

When SRTK electronic reporting is not possible during initial reporting:

If a call to the DEEP Emergency Response Unit has not already been made and the electronic reporting system is not functioning or there is an emergency at the facility that prevents electronic SRTK reporting (no electricity, flooding, etc.), then call DEEP’s Emergency Spill Response Unit at (860) 424-3338* and provide the bypass information and describe the issue(s) the facility is having with reporting. When a call is made, record the time called, the name of the DEEP staff you spoke with and the case number.

*Note, you must speak to a DEEP official when calling and it is unacceptable to leave a voice mail message.

Once the event impeding electronic reporting has cleared, the operator is required to submit an electronic report on the event through the STRK system. The report must note the time the original call was made, the DEEP staff person the report was made to, what caused the release, and, if available, a case number. For additional information regarding the Municipal Wastewater Program, please contact the Municipal Wastewater section by [e-mail](#) at DEEP.SRTK@ct.gov or call us at 860-424-3704.