

Larry Hartig  
Commissioner

P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, AK 99811-1800  
www.dec.alaska.gov



Ty Keltner  
Information Officer

907.465.5009  
cell: 907.388.8822  
ty.keltner@alaska.gov

## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Oran Woolley, DEC Engineering Associate, (907) 376-1852

### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

START: Thursday, Sept. 20, 2012 12:00 p.m.

### **Flooding Can Damage Wastewater Systems**

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is issuing the following advisory for Mat-Su area property owners near flooding streams and rivers.

Flooded onsite sewer systems may be damaged and will not function properly. If sewage has leaked onto the ground, DEC recommends disinfecting the area with lime. A light powdering of finely ground garden lime will work, or a 5% solution of water and chlorine bleach. Sewage can contain active and harmful bacteria, cysts and viruses.

If possible, do not use your onsite sewer system until after the flood waters and groundwater levels have receded enough to prevent wastewater from surfacing or backing up into your home.

For more information on how to monitor your sewer system to detect damage, call the DEC Wasilla Office at (907) 376-1852.

For more information on flooding and flood cleanup in Alaska, visit:  
<http://www.flood.alaska.gov/>.

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