

August 18, 2021

PORTION OF WATSON BAYOU UNDER ADVISORY AFTER RAW SEWAGE RELEASE

City of Panama City reports approximately 50,474-gallon raw sewage release.



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Panama City, Fla. – The City of Panama City is reporting three separate releases totaling approximately **50,474 gallons of raw sewage**. This is due to three lift stations overflowing because of heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Fred, one at **1213 North Palo Alto Ave.**, one at **1710 Business Highway 98**, and one at **818 East 7th Court**. The releases entered **Watson Bayou**.

Sewage contamination of water can expose swimmers to **intestinal viruses, bacteria, and parasites**. Swimming in the water may cause **symptoms like food poisoning** with vomiting and diarrhea. **Infection is possible in open cuts and wounds** that come in contact with the water.

The Florida Department of Health in Bay County, DOH-Bay, **advises against swimming in Watson Bayou** from **East 8th Street south to East 3rd Street until further notice**. The **City of Panama City will test** the water and share results with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health in Bay County. **Once levels are safe, the advisory will be lifted.**

For more information, contact the DOH-Bay's Environmental Health office at 850-481-4806 or visit Bay.FloridaHealth.gov.

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