



# FACT SHEET

## DWSD Response to Seven Inches of Rain Causing Severe Flooding; What Affected Residents Can Do

Since Friday night, June 25, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), other City departments, and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) have been responding to severely flooded neighborhoods due to nearly seven inches of rain overnight.

### What Happened Friday Night and Early Saturday Morning

Seven inches of torrential rain fell Friday night, June 25 and into Saturday morning, June 26 in the Detroit area. Multiple weather services and forecasters predicted less than two inches of rain. That much volume overwhelmed the regional and local sewer systems.

The intensity of the storms exceeded the design standards for pump stations and combined sewer overflow facilities serving the Detroit region, which are operated by GLWA. With this much rain, there was nowhere for the water to go other than to flood streets and basements.

### City of Detroit Responds

DWSD crews and Vactor trucks have been dispatched to hard hit areas to unclog catch basins blocked with trash and debris due to the storms. DPW and GSD crews are cleaning streets and clearing debris.

As of Saturday afternoon, June 26, GLWA reported the Connor Creek Combined Sewer Overflow Facility and pumping station, as well as the Freud pumping station, were all working within capacity and levels continue to be normal. Once this rain event is concluded, GLWA will perform an investigation of system operations, as will DWSD.

The City of Detroit and DWSD's focus is on taking care of Detroit residents. With an extraordinary storm like this, there was a significant amount of elevated water in the system leading to several hundred or more Detroit households experiencing water in their basements and sewage backups, especially in the flood prone areas. DWSD has been in areas of the city with heavy flooding and is working with the GLWA to ensure systems are operating at maximum capacity and managing as much flow as possible.

### What Residents Can Do

- **Call 313-267-8000 to report water damage** in order for DWSD to know who has been affected, and to receive important damage claim information.
- **Or visit [detroitmi.gov/waterdamageclaims](https://detroitmi.gov/waterdamageclaims) to report property damage due to flooding.**
- By State law, residents must notify DWSD within 45 days from the date they suffer damage.
- **Place flood damaged items at the curb and the Department of Public Works will pick up.**
- Follow these flood safety tips:
  - Do not walk in standing water in your basement if the area includes electrical appliances, outlets, and/or wires.
  - Do not drive through flooded streets.
  - If you see a catch basin covered in trash, please remove the trash and debris.
- With continued rainfall expected over the next several days, DWSD strongly urges residents to take precautions to protect property, including:
  - Make sure valuables are stored several feet above basement floors or move valuables to an upper floor in case you experience a flooded basement.
  - Clean your gutters and downspouts if you can safely do so – make sure there are no items blocking the exit of your downspouts.