

Mayor Michael O'Connor
101 N Court Street
Frederick, MD 21701
www.cityoffrederick.com

Contact: [Patti B. Mullins](mailto:pmullins@cityoffrederick.com)
Public Information Coordinator
Phone: (301)600-1385
pmullins@cityoffrederick.com



NEWS RELEASE

Power Surge Interrupts Sewer Plant Function

Sewage Release into Carroll Creek Occurred

FREDERICK, MD – March 29, 2018: A power surge at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday at the City of Frederick wastewater treatment plant caused catastrophic damage that resulted in a release of untreated wastewater into Carroll Creek for approximately one hour.

A power surge at about 2:30 p.m. severely damaged the plant's electrical system, and running the generators was not immediately deemed safe. The plant continued to take in wastewater for holding. Between 5 and 6 p.m., the plant was unable to receive any more wastewater to hold, and it began to discharge wastewater through a manhole near the plant entrance.

At 5:45 p.m., the electrical system was deemed safe for generators to operate, and the release of untreated material stopped by 6 p.m. An estimated 250,000 gallons were released.

The Maryland Department of the Environment and the Frederick County Health Department have been notified. Signs are posted by the road cautioning citizens of the possible contamination to the creek. Lime has been placed around the area to neutralize any effects on the ground.

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