



## Drainage Collection Supervisor Always on the Move

Mick Smith spends much of his time fielding calls ranging from plugged drains and canal troubles, to chemical spills and even hazmat incidents. He serves in our storm drainage division as the drainage collections supervisor, a position he has held for 11 years.

Smith has been with the City for 26 years, starting as an apprentice and working his way up. "I've worked in every section of storm drainage including maintenance and repairs," Smith explained. "I've seen it all in my tenure from apprentice to service worker to lead worker to supervisor."

Despite staffing challenges due to COVID-19, Smith and his team continue work executing the storm drainage master plan where their goal is to touch and clean every storm drain and pipe in the City. This allows them to find pipes and drains filled with sediments and debris and clear them before they fail.

His team also handles "critter rescue." Ducklings, raccoons and even cats and dogs can get trapped in drains and Smith's team assists in their removal.

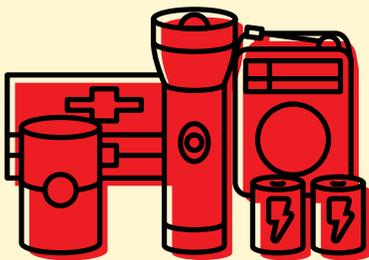


Mick Smith

## Is Your Home Flood Ready?

Utilities staff are always working to ensure that our drainage system works safely and efficiently. Our staff inspects and monitors floodgates, maintains drainage canals and basins, and cleans the drainage system regularly. In a flood emergency, Utilities staff, along with other city staff, work diligently to minimize flooding and bring water levels down quickly to limit damages.

You can be prepared for a flood emergency, and possible evacuation, before it happens.



Create an emergency flood kit. Be sure to include important paperwork such as copies of insurance policies and birth certificates, extra batteries and flashlights, a battery-powered radio, medications and food and enough drinkable water for at least 72 hours.



Make sure you have cat carriers, dog leashes and any pet medications and food in your emergency kit.



Document your personal belongings. This information can be used after a flood to document damage if necessary.



Talk with family members about where to go and what to do during a flood emergency.



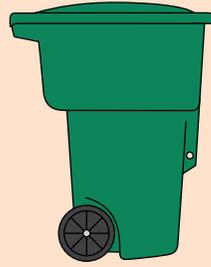
Follow the directions from the news media and by the Police and Fire Departments to ensure you are proceeding in a safe manner.



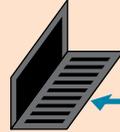
## STORM DRAINAGE SPOTLIGHT

# How to Properly Dispose of Leaf Piles

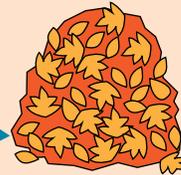
It's leaf season! The changing seasons from November to January means a significant amount of falling leaves. It is important to follow these three steps when disposing of them to keep storm drains clear and the drainage system running properly all winter.



Fill your green waste bins before placing leaf piles in the street. They will get picked up 13 times from November through January while the claw will make seven collections.



3'



6'



Stack leaf piles three feet away from the gutter so rainwater can freely flow into the storm drain without clogging.

Place the pile six feet from any obstruction (cars, boats, basketball hoops etc.). Avoid placing piles in bike lanes, when possible.

## The Cost of Sewer Backups Is Big

Stop! Don't pour your fats, oils and grease (known as FOG) down your sink. That is cooking oil, bacon grease, meat fat, lard, shortening, butter and salad dressings.

When liquid fats are poured down a drain, they cool, become solid and then float to the top in the sewer lines. The layer of fat sticks to the pipes and, over time, it effectively narrows the pipeline the wastewater runs through.

In your home, this means your sinks may drain slowly and then eventually back up. And, in the sewer system, the narrowed pipes eventually cause clogs, leading to sewer backups in your neighborhood. The average cost for the City to clean up a sewer overflow is \$500 and the cost to homeowners to unclog a greasy pipe is about \$250. Handle your FOG correctly to avoid these costly impacts.

**What's the best way to keep your drains FOG and clog free?  
Pour it. Scrape it. Seal it. Trash it. Here's how:**



Pour and scrape FOG into a disposal container.



Seal the container.



Trash the container in garbage can.

Visit [sacramentofatfreedrains.com](http://sacramentofatfreedrains.com) for more information.

## McKinley Water Vault Making Strides

The McKinley Water Vault is an underground storage tank that, once completed, will hold combined storm water and wastewater that would otherwise be in the street during big storms when the combined sewer system is at capacity. It will be located underneath the George "Butter" Cole Field in McKinley Park and will protect property and people by reducing street flooding and combined sewer system outflows.

McKinley Water Vault construction is progressing on schedule. The first two phases are complete and the third phase—FILL—is approximately 15 percent complete and is on track for completion by early spring. During the FILL phase, the vault will be covered with soil and will include some truck traffic, dust, noise and parking impacts. Every effort will be made to minimize these impacts.

Stay up to date with construction online at [cityofsacramento.org/McKinleyWaterVault](http://cityofsacramento.org/McKinleyWaterVault) by signing up for email alerts to be notified of ongoing updates.