



**Town of Tisbury**  
**Wastewater Department**  
P.O. Box 788, 115 High Point Road  
Vineyard Haven, Ma. 02568  
Phone (508) 696-4220 Fax: (508) 696-4221

## Incident Report

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**Report By:** Jared Meader **Incident Date:** 9/9/2021 **Incident Time:** 14:27  
**Title/Role:** Superintendent **Street Address:** 25 Beach Road  
**Specific Area of Location:** Grinder pump chamber located behind 21 Beach Road

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**Town Staff Present:** Kirk Metell, DPW Director  
Michael Alberice, Wastewater Lead Operator  
Catherine Fuller, Board of Health

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### Incident Description:

Sanitary Sewer Overflow from a grinder pump station due to an illicit connection to the wastewater collection system, resulting in wastewater entering the stormwater collection system and discharging to the harbor.

### Notifications:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EPA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DMF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOH
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cons. Comm.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Dept.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Harbor Master	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shellfish Dept.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Dept.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WRC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sewer Advisory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## NARRATIVE

At approximately 14:30, on September 9, 2021. The Tisbury Wastewater received a report from the Dukes County Sheriff's Officer Communications Center, of a strong odor coming from around the area of Art Cliff Diner. Michael Alberice, responded to the location to investigate the cause. Upon his arrival he immediately detected the smell of wastewater in the air and began searching for the cause. A few minutes after Mikes arrived at the Art Cliff Diner, I received another call from the Communications Center informing us that another complaint of a strong odor was coming from the area of the Citco station on Beach Road. I called Mike and informed him of the updated information and told him I was gathering equipment that might be needed.

When Mike arrived at the grinder pump station at 19 Beach Road, he immediately noticed water coming up from the Bilco Hatch that houses the grinder pump connected to the low-pressure sewer collection system. Once I received this information, I called Maciel and Son asking them if they could one of their trucks down to the area of 19 Beach Road and to bring what equipment he might need to cut the road to gain access to curb boxes that might have been paved over. Mike then informed me that the grinder pumps inside the chamber were completely submerged and not operating in auto and that he was manually pumping the chamber down, but it did not seem to be slowing the flow of water.

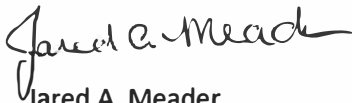
When I arrived at the location, I began Looking of the location of the curb box. Mike then came over to assist in the search and said Kirk Metell was manually pumping down the chamber. Within minutes Maciel and son arrived and began pumping out the station with Mike. At approximately 15:00, the overflow was stopped from spilling out onto the property. Once the chamber was pumped down it was discovered that a large volume of water was coming into the chamber and that it was consistent with the type of flow that should becoming from any of the four-building listed on the as-builts. Catherine Blake who was previously on location also investigating the odor small went and retrieved an old title five map for the properties which gave us a better understanding. We discovered while using Maciels CCTV that the solids tank from the title five were still intact and attached to the sewer but was inaccessible due to paving. At this point I instructed Troy Maciel to cut the driveway and expose the tank so we can get a look at what was going on.

While Troy and his crew was cutting the driveway, we started suspecting that there was an illicit connection (sump pump) attached to the system because the flow was increasing and decreasing in a fairly steady pattern and so we began to search the buildings with the new property manager who arrived on location. We were able to identify that there was flow in the pipe because we can hear it and feel the vibration in the pipes. But we were not able to locate the pump.

After gaining access to the solids tank, we again used the CCTV and confirmed that the flow was coming from 25 Beach Road and was consistent with a sump pump. After Searching for approximately three hours of searching, turning on and off breakers try to stop the pump. Trevor Maciel felt that the floor was different under a rug he was standing on and pulled it to the side which revealed a hatch cut in the floor and once removed, confirmed our suspicions.

The following morning after the heavy rains, Mike disinfected the property while I began completing the DEP SSO reporting process. EOR

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared A. Meader". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jared" being more prominent.

Jared A. Meader

Superintendent

Tisbury Wastewater Department



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Protection – Wastewater Management Program  
**Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)/Bypass  
Notification Form**

FOR DEP USE ONLY

Tax Identification Number

**A. Reporting Facility**

**Important:** When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



1. Facility Information

Tisbury Wastewater Treatment Facility

X267078

Reporting Sewer Authority

Permit #

2. Authorized Representative Transmitting Form:

Jared

Meader

508-939-0133

First Name

Last Name

Telephone No.

Superintendent

jmeader@tisbury.ma.gov

Title

E-mail Address

**B. Phone Notifications:**

See DEP  
Regional Office  
telephone and  
fax numbers at  
the end of this  
form.

1. MassDEP staff contacted:

Brian

first name

9/10/2021

Date

David

first name

9/10/2021

Date

Catherine

First Name

9/9/2021

Date

Dudley

last name

08:55

Time

Turin

last name

09:30

Time

Fuller

Last Name

14:30

Time

Date/Time contacted:

2. EPA staff contacted:

Date/Time EPA contacted:

3. Board of Health contacted:

Date/Time contacted:

4. Others notified (select all that apply);

☒ Conservation Commission

☒ Harbormaster

☒ Shellfish Warden

☒ Division of Marine Fisheries

☒ Downstream Drinking Water Supplier

☐ Watershed Association

☒ Beach Resource Manager ☒ Other:

Water Resources Committee  
(specify)

**C. SSO Information**

1. SSO Discovered:

9/9/2021

Date

14:27

Time

☐ am

☒ pm

By:

Tisbury Police via Dukes County Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center

2. SSO Stopped:

9/9/2021

Date

15:10

Time

☐ am

☒ pm

3. SSO Discharge from: ☐ Sanitary Sewer Manhole

☒ Pump Station

☐ Backup into Property ☐ Other:

(specify)

4. SSO Discharge to: ☐ Ground Surface (no release to surface water)

☐ Direct to Receiving Water

Vineyard Haven Harbor

(surface water)

☒ Catch basin to Receiving Water

(surface water)

☐ Backup into Property Basement



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**Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)/Bypass**  
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**C. SSO Information (cont.)**

Location: 25 Beach Road (Chamber located behind 19 Beach Road)  
(Description of discharge site or closest address)

300 gal.

5. Estimated SSO Volume at time of this Report:

Estimated tank capacity

Method of Estimating Volume:

6. Cause of SSO Event:

☒ Rain Event    ☒ Pump Station Failure    ☐ Insufficient Capacity in System

☐ Treatment Unit failure

☐ Sewer System Blockage:    ☐ Pipe Collapse    ☐ Root Intrusion    ☐ Grease Blockage

☒ Other: Illicit sump pump connection  
(Specify)

7. Corrective Actions Taken:

Manually pumped down grinder chamber until septic hauler (Maciel and Sons)

arrived and vacuumed chamber. Cut driveway to expose old septic solids tank to  
allow CCTV access in order to identify I&I source. Located and disconnected sump  
pump located in a crawl space at 25 Beach Road.

Impact Area cleaned and/or disinfected:    ☒ Yes    ☐ No

Disinfected area using a 10 to 1 Beach mix the following morning after the rain  
stopped.

Corrective Actions Completed:    ☒ Yes    ☐ No

Disconnected sump pump and repaired grinder chamber switches.

**D. Comments/Attachments/Follow-up**

I wish to provide (select all that apply):

☒ Attachment    ☒ Additional comments below:    ☐ No additional comments or attachments

Additional comments and planned actions:

The Building Department has been notified and will be following up with 25 Beach  
Road to ensure that pump and unrelated piping has been removed.



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**Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO)/Bypass**  
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**E. Certification Statement**

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

  
Signature of Authorized Representative

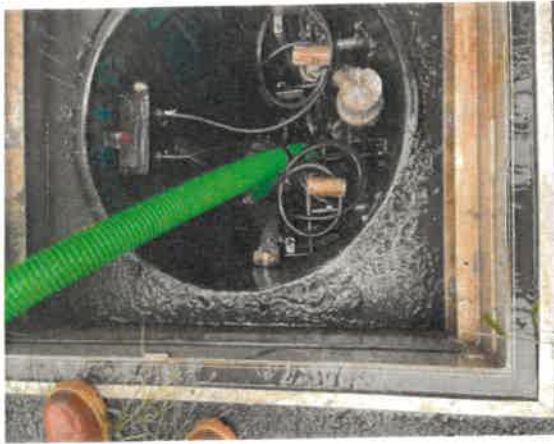
9/10/2021

Date Signed

Please keep a copy of this report for your records. When submitting additional information, include the MassDEP Incident Number from this report.

**MassDEP Regional Office and EPA Telephone and Fax Numbers:**

Northeast Region	Phone: 978-694-3215	Fax: 978-694-3499
Southeast Region	Phone: 508-946-2750	Fax: 508-947-6557
Central Region	Phone: 508-792-7650	Fax: 508-792-7621
Western Region	Phone: 413-784-1100	Fax: 413-784-1149
EPA	Phone: 617-918-1510	
EPA for Southeast Region, David Turin	Phone: 617-918-1598	Fax: 617-918-0598
EPA for Northeast, Central and Western Regions, Douglas Koopman	Phone: 617-918-1747	Fax: 617-918-0747
DEP 24-hour emergency	Phone: 888-304-1133	



Grinder Chamber



Cutting drive way to gain access to old solids tank/grease trap



Sump pump located under a trap door in the floor covered with carpet.