

Only Rain in the Storm Drain

IT'S DANGEROUS

No pollutants, trash or people!

The city's storm drain system consists of rivers, washes, channels, ditches, pipes, box culverts, and basins. This system is set up to transport water safely throughout the city. But, the drainage systems can be dangerous for people. While washes, for example, appear dry most of the year, water can fill them rapidly and sweep away anything in its path, including children. **The storm drain system has the following hidden dangers that can pose great risk to people:**



Sewer Gas - Sewer gas is a collection of gases from waste such as rotting organic matter, human waste or industrial chemicals. These gasses may include hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, methane, esters, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. Mixed with a lack of natural flowing oxygenated air, these gasses can be a deadly.



Confined Space - Entering a confined space like a storm drain or culvert means it can be difficult to get out of, making rescue efforts very complicated. Also, attempting rescues in a confined space puts the first responders at an equal or greater risk.



Storm Drains - Water can be the biggest surprise of all in drains. Storm drains and grates can be very dangerous with rapidly moving and draining water. If there is a sudden storm, flood, or hydrant flush that occurs, a single drain can become filled with water that has a strong current in a matter of minutes. Ankle deep water is enough to sweep someone off their feet and, literally, down the drain.



Dirty - Pollutants, litter on the streets, dog waste, and unknown substances that may be dumped down the gutters all flow to the storm drains, increasing the risk of exposure to disease and hazardous chemicals. Also, stormwater infrastructure is often out of sight, making it an easy target for transient camps with discarded drug paraphernalia and unhygienic items.



Animals - Many animals make their homes in and around dark storm drains. Most are dangerous and some are deadly. And, what's worse is that you can't see them. Some of those animals include rats, spiders, cats, snakes, bats, raccoons, etc. Coming into contact with any of these animals can expose you to disease, bites, cuts and abrasions.



Illegal - City-owned storm drain infrastructure is city property. City code prohibits the public from entering city property without approval. Any items found in the city's storm drain infrastructure due to trespassing, loitering, or littering is considered an illicit discharge and is illegal.



**Children should never play in the storm drain system.
Remember, only rain in the storm drain.**