



City of Goshen

STORMWATER TOOLBOX

**Public Works & Utilities
Department of Stormwater
204 E. Jefferson Street
Goshen, Indiana 46528
574-534-2201**

**Stormwater Superintendent:
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Stormwater Coordinator:
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Fireworks - Beauty or Beast?

For several days before and after the 4th of July, there is rarely a night that goes by without hearing the whoosh and bang of a firework. It might be you or your neighbor shooting fireworks off from their yard or driveway, or it might be a public display you are watching with family and friends. Either way, you are sure to be dazzled and awed by the beauty of this annual tradition which brings to mind the lyrics from The Star-Spangled Banner:

*"And the rockets red
glare, the bombs
bursting in air."*

Photo Credit: Oliver Herbold



After the lights have faded, the smoke has blown away, and the party ends, the cleanup of the cups, plates, napkins, and maybe some firework debris left on your driveway from fountains or firecrackers begins. But what about the debris from the rockets that burst in the sky above? This debris may fall in your yard, street, or further away depending on the wind, and the next time it rains it could be washed down the nearest storm drain and out to our local waterways. This is not to say that fireworks are all bad, we just need to make sure to safely cleanup the leftover debris after the show is over. Not only are you helping improve water quality, you are also being a good neighbor.

For more information, check out the article *Bombs Bursting in Air: Environmental Regulation of Fireworks* at <http://legal-planet.org/2013/07/03/bombs-bursting-in-air-environmental-regulation-of-fireworks/>.



**The upcoming IDEM
Audit of our municipal
pollution prevention &
good housekeeping
program is just a
month away
(August 19th).**

**Thank you for all you
have done and all you
continue to do!**

Firework Debris includes cardboard, plastic pieces, wooden sticks, chalk, unburnt metals, chemicals, & particulate matter.

Picture to Right: Firework debris from a single residential yard after a neighbor's two-hour firework display.



A DROP OF NEWS

Your Stormwater Newsletter

Keep Your Clippings to Yourself

As the summer wears on, the Stormwater Department has had multiple reports of issues with grass clippings being left in the road or along the curb and causing flooding issues. Please consider the following tips when mowing grass at work and/or at home:

- Use the "mulch" setting on mowers so that grass will be left in place to decompose and become a natural fertilizer.
- If no mulch setting is available, make sure to blow or sweep (never use water) grass clippings off the roadway and curb back onto the lawn.
- Encourage others to do the same.

Grass clippings and other yard waste (e.g. leaves) are a significant source of stormwater pollution when not properly cleaned up. Grass clippings and other yard waste can clog storm drains and cause drainage and flooding issues as well as quite a stink when they start to rot. Additionally, they are a source of nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, which leads to unwanted and uncontrolled algae and aquatic weed growth. Apart from looking unsightly, excessive algae growth can block out sunlight and lower the oxygen level in the water, which can lead to fish kills. Excessive algae and aquatic weeds also lowers the recreational value of the waterway.



For more information see the education section in the Stormwater Management section under Departments on the City of Goshen webpage:

www.goshenindiana.org

Department of Stormwater

Report an illicit discharge or mud on the street by calling:
574-537-3832
or 574-534-2201



The Great Stormwater Hunt Continues...

Thanks to all of who have joined "The Hunt" and called or emailed the Stormwater Department about illicit discharges or dirt on the road. It is greatly appreciated and your name has been added to the prize drawing in December.

