

EXAMPLE SCENARIO

- It's Saturday morning on a Bank holiday weekend in August, the middle of the bathing season.
- Weather conditions this week have been warm and sunny with light to moderate offshore winds.
- A youth county triathlon is due to begin at **11am** at the activity centre in the region.
- The local and regional tourist boards have publicised the parade of sail, taking place this Monday, which will be seen from all major beaches.
- It is the weekend many have been looking forward to, hotels have recorded the highest number of overnight stays for this summer and caravan parks are packed. And as is usual with bank holiday weekends traffic along the south was heavy yesterday.

BUT....

- **Between midnight and 05:00am** last night a major electrical storm occurred with significant rainfall
- At about **1am** this morning due to the sheer volume of waters involved, the foul drainage system surcharged into the storm water system.
- Although the skies look to be clearing with the change in wind conditions to a strong on-shore south-westerly, there has been the odd shower
- At **7.30am** Dolly Knight, a local dog walker and always an earlier riser, decides to chance it and take Molly to the beach over the road.
- Whilst there, she is shocked to see effluent coming out of the storm overflow and solids on the beach.
- Dolly, aghast, hurries home and calls the local council...

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...is up to you!

BACKGROUND

The beach rarely demonstrates failure against tight water quality standards. The last water quality sample taken was compliant.

Fully treated discharges occur adjacent to the bathing water at the south western end. Dilution and dispersion studies indicate that this discharge does not routinely effect bathing water except under strong SW wind conditions.

Urban drainage and surface runoff principally operate during wet weather and discharges cease quickly after rainfall stops (within 4 hours).

However, once operated water does pool at the head of the beach in the vicinity of the discharge points and dissipates slowly over the next 10 hours.

It has been observed that children play in the pools.

The beach contributes significant tourism to the area based on bathing and water sports. There is a strong regional and local tourism/chamber of commerce group and the significance of local beaches keep it a focal point for the media, public and political interests.

The area is actively promoted by the Southern Tourist Board as a holiday destination.

Several local private businesses are located on the beach and derive their income directly from beach-based tourism.

A well-known coastal path drops onto the beach and is used extensively by ramblers and local dog walkers.

The local activity centre, well known for its water sports, intends to use both the beach and bathing water in its triathlon.

The aspect of the principal beach is S facing. The prevailing winds are now SW.

The area has another bathing beach in close proximity to the one described that is SW facing.

High tide is at **13:28**