



ESD NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

INSIDE:

- How to Responsibly Drain and Backwash Your Pool 101
- National Stormwater Awareness Week
- Monsoon Season is upon us! It's time to take action and Protect our Stormwater!
- Community Outreach Highlights (January - June 2026)



Introduction to the Environmental & Safety Division

The Environmental & Safety Division (ESD) ensures that City water and wastewater facilities protect public health and the environment by maintaining compliance with environmental laws, and by providing high quality and reliable services to the Department, City staff, and the public.

The division is comprised of various sections to include:

- **Business Operations:** Administrative, community outreach, laboratory safety, and environmental training coordination.
- **Compliance:** Air, hazardous material, wastewater, and water regulatory compliance.
- **Laboratory:** Analytical testing of water and wastewater. Licensed by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) and certified by The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP).
- **Monitoring:** Monitoring and sampling of water and wastewater accredited by The National Environmental Field Accreditation Program.
- **Pollution, Prevention & Permitting:** Commercial, Industrial Pretreatment, and Stormwater programs conduct inspections, prevention, permitting, and sampling.
- **Quality Assurance:** Quality assurance, compliance, and monitoring.
- **Safety:** Safety oversight and training for all Water Services Department employees.



Keep Your Pool Cool... and the Storm Drains Cooler!

Keep Your Pool Cool... and the Storm Drains Cooler!

It's pool season in Phoenix! The sun is shining, floaties are inflated, and it's time to enjoy the water. However, if your pool water isn't looking sparkling clean and needs a refresh, think twice before draining it. Here's an important fact: our storm drains should not be used to drain pool water.

Storm drains are meant for rainwater only. When pool water hits the street, it zooms into storm drains untreated, carrying chlorine, salt, and whatever else it picks up along the way. That can hurt plants, wildlife, and our waterways. Not exactly the summer vibe we're going for.

Make a Wave the Right Way.

Here's how to keep Phoenix beautiful while keeping your pool beautiful, too:



Please direct the pool water to the sanitary sewer cleanout for reuse.



Water your yard (only when chlorine is basically zero and the water isn't salty).



Never send saltwater pool water to the street! It's bad for roads, soil, and, honestly, everyone involved.

By keeping your pool water out of the storm drains, you're helping protect our rivers, parks, and wildlife. Only Rain In The Storm Drain.



STORMWATER AWARENESS

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The summer monsoons bring more than just torrential downpours and lightning shows; stormwater runoff also picks up pollutants, such as oil, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, trash, and debris. Stormwater in the valley is not treated, and all those pollutants on streets, parking lots, and driveways end up in our retention/detention basins, washes, rivers, and canals.

5 TIPS TO HELP STOP STORMWATER POLLUTION



Another concern during the monsoon season is heavy rainfall! The City's stormwater drainage system is designed to drain stormwater from the streets into retention/detention basins, washes, rivers, and canals. However, when culverts, catch basins, and drainage grates become clogged with debris, the flow of stormwater is impacted. And when the flow of stormwater is restricted, there can be catastrophic consequences, including localized flooding.

But you can prepare for the monsoon by making sure culverts and catch basins are free of trash, vegetation, and sediment that can restrict flow; disposing of yard waste in trash receptacles; and reporting clogged storm drains to 602-262-6441.



STORMWATER AWARENESS

PHOENIX.GOV/STORMWATER

SEPTEMBER 21 -27, 2026

The City of Phoenix will be participating in the National Stormwater Awareness Week September 21 -27, 2026.

Stormwater can pick up pollutants such as oil or trash and impact our rivers, washes, and parks. Your simple everyday actions can make a huge difference and improve stormwater quality and our environment.

To learn more about what you can do to prevent stormwater pollution, visit www.phoenix.gov/stormwater and www.StormwaterAwarenessWeek.org

Remember, only rain in the storm drain.

IN THE COMMUNITY

From January through June 2026, the Environmental & Safety Division continued its strong commitment to community engagement by participating in a wide range of public events across the Valley. These outreach efforts helped promote environmental stewardship, water awareness, sustainability practices, and public safety while strengthening connections with residents, partner organizations, and local stakeholders.

Throughout the first half of the year, team members staffed educational booths, shared resources, and engaged directly with thousands of community members at the following events:

- **January 31 – Doggie Street Festival**

The team kicked off the year engaging with pet lovers and families, sharing tips on proper waste disposal and stormwater protection.

- **February 14 to 15 – Chinese Cultural Week**

Staff connected with attendees celebrating Phoenix's cultural diversity, offering information on water conservation and sustainable community practices.

- **March 11 to 12 – AZEHA Conference**

Participation in this environmental health conference allowed staff to connect with industry professionals and highlight the Division's regulatory and pollution-prevention work.

- **March 26–27 – Arizona Construction Career Days / AZ Construction**

The team engaged future trades professionals, emphasizing environmental compliance, safety practices, and pollution prevention in construction activities.



- **March 27 – Cesar Chavez Celebration**

With strong community turnout, staff shared messages on protecting local waterways and reducing pollution through everyday actions.



- **March 28 – Slope Fest**

This outdoor event provided an opportunity to discuss safe recreation practices, watershed health, and environmental stewardship with families and outdoor enthusiasts.

- **April 11 – Arizona Water Awareness Month Festival**

Staff supported Arizona Water Awareness Month by helping residents learn more about water quality, conservation, and stormwater management.



- **April 16 – VA Sustainability Fair**

The Division connected with veterans and VA staff, highlighting sustainability initiatives and pollution-prevention resources.

- **April 22 – Aviation Earth Day Celebration**

Coinciding with Earth Day, this event reached travelers and aviation employees with messages about protecting urban waterways and reducing environmental impacts.



- **April 29 – Sun Safety Expo**

The team collaborated with community partners to promote UV safety, hydration awareness, and environmental health during Arizona’s warming spring season.

- **May 16 – District 3 Celebrate Cave Creek**

Rounding out the spring season, the Division met with residents to share information on water services, stormwater protection, and community resources.



