

Counting storm overflow spills and duration

Everytime a storm overflow starts discharging sewage into the water the Event Duration Monitor (EDM) sends a message to the water company. When it stops another message is sent. The time from start to finish is the duration of the spill and this is part of the EDM return made by every water company at the end of the year showing the total duration for each storm overflow.

The other part of the return is the spill count. Unfortunately this is not a simple matter of counting all the start and stop events. That's because spills often start and stop many times as the rain or snow eases then gets heavier again. Spills are counted using the 12 / 24 count method.

The count starts when the EDM is triggered. Any spills in the first 12 hours count as one spill.

Any spill in the next 24 hours and subsequent 24 hrs count as a second, third and so on.

This continues until 24 hours elapses without a spill. The count then resets and starts with the next EDM activation.

The examples below show three different spill patterns. The *Spill Count* and *Duration* is shown in red.

