



Fire Department
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For Immediate Release
October 28th 2024

Unknown Substance in River

City of Waukesha

WAUKESHA, Wis. –

At approximately 2:10pm The City of Waukesha Fire Department was dispatched to the area of Barstow and Riverfront St for an unusual substance coming out of a storm water discharge into the Fox River. Crews on scene found an oily sheen in the river with an unusual odor. Waukesha Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team were able to put a boom in the water containing unknown substance, while City personnel tried to identify the substance and source. The quantity is also unknown but crews on scene noted the flow was getting less and less during booming operations, so at this time it is believed not to be a significant amount. The City will continue working with the Wisconsin DNR as they try to identify the product.

The Waukesha Fire Department would like to remind all residents of the importance of properly disposing of all household chemicals and never use a storm drain as a means of disposal. Waukesha County has several sites for disposal of household chemical that is free to all Waukesha County residence. [Waukesha County - Household Hazardous Waste](#)

We would like to thank our Police and Streets Department for their fast response and assistance in mitigating this event.

END