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"Cease the Grease" This Holiday Season

With the holiday season, turkey fryers and rich and delicious recipes just around the corner, the City of Dallas wants residents to "go green" in the kitchen this holiday season. In addition to the danger these holiday foods pose to your waistline, improperly disposed fats, oils and grease (FOG) can harm the environment by creating blockages in city sanitary sewer lines and homeowner pipes that may cause property damage, foul odors and road closures due to pipe repairs.

The City of Dallas is urging residents to "Cease the Grease" and properly dispose of all FOG when fried turkeys, hams and other greasy, traditional foods are prepared. Below are some easy tips to help you have a FOG problem-free holiday season.

Cease the Grease!

DO properly dispose large amounts of cooking oil.

" Large amounts of oil (from frying that mouth-watering turkey or ham) can be recycled into biodiesel fuel. The City of Dallas' Water Utilities and Sanitation Services divisions urge you to check <http://ceasethegrease.info> for local recycling center listings. To store, simply place your cooking oil in rigid plastic containers and secure with a screw-top lid for transporting.

DO NOT pour FOG down the kitchen sink.

" Pour oil and grease into covered containers such as an old coffee can, empty glass jars or disposable storage containers, place it in your freezer until full and then dispose in the garbage can.

" Make sure pans are grease-free before washing - washing greasy dish-

es with hot water does not stop FOG problems. Skim, scrape or wipe off excess grease and food scraps from dishes, pans, fryers and griddles with paper towels. Place used towels in the garbage can.

" Cover your kitchen sink with a catch basket and empty into the garbage can as needed.

Making these tips a part of your holiday routine will help you and the City of Dallas avoid the unpleasant side effects of FOG build-up, while still enjoying the tasty treats that are the hallmark of the holiday season. For additional information on the "Cease the Grease" program and more helpful advice, please visit Dallas Water Utilities' Grease Abatement Program Web site at <http://ceasethegrease.info>.