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Honor and Celebrate but “Cease the Grease” in May *City of Dallas urges residents not to pour grease down drains while celebrating May events*

(Dallas, May 8, 2009) With two major observances and festivities scheduled in May, officials with Dallas Water Utilities urge area residents to properly dispose of food wastes and liquids when cooking. Specifically, don't pour grease and other cooking materials down your home drains.

Many residents are planning cookouts and other special meals for Mothers Day and the Memorial Day weekend, and DWU officials want to raise awareness of what to do with grease and food wastes.

“Small amounts of grease should be placed in containers such as empty juice concentrate cans,” said Helen Cantril Dulac of Dallas Water Utilities. “Let the grease cool and harden then throw it away. Food scraps should be thrown away or composted. These simple steps will help reduce the need for costly repairs to clogged homeowner and city sewer pipes,” Dulac added.

In 2008, there were 41 grease related sanitary sewer overflows in Dallas and many required road closures for repairs. In some cases, sanitary sewer overflows could result in untreated wastewater escaping into storm drain inlets.

Residents can also recycle large amounts of cooking oil and grease. The oil and grease should be allowed to cool then placed in the original bottle or rigid plastic container with a screw top lid. Recycling locations include the four City of Dallas Sanitation Transfer Stations or the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center.

The Cease the Grease program recently received national recognition (Pollie Awards) for their public awareness campaign from the American Association of Political and Public Affairs Professionals (AAPC), and local recognition from the Dallas Mayor's office with the Mayor's Environmental Excellence Award. Additional information about the Cease the Grease program can be found at <http://ceasethegrease.info>