

HOW TO REPORT RIVER POLLUTION / WATCHDOG PROCEDURE - FLFR

Below is a suggested procedure for reporting a problem on the Locust Fork River, tributaries and/or watershed. It is important to be **prompt and precise** and **well documented** when reporting. *Friends of the Locust Fork River is here to help you report in any way needed, but it is important for the person seeing the violation first hand to initiate the water quality complaint. FLFR needs and appreciates your help keeping the LFR watershed healthy.*

1. **Location of pollution to be reported** (county, stream, GPS coordinates, road map/crossings, etc.)
2. **Description of the problem observed** (smell, color, dead animals, etc.)
Storm water runoff, sedimentation and siltation, point source pollution, non-point source pollution, sewage discharge, septic tank leak, Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), waste sludge distribution, illegal dump, gasoline or oil spill, fish kill, etc.
3. **When was the problem observed** (month, day, year, time, after heavy rain, etc)
4. **Expected source of pollution** (sewage outfall, poultry farm, extreme bank erosion, etc.)
5. **Your identification** (as anonymous or name, postal address, cell phone, email, etc.)
6. **ALWAYS request confirmation** of receipt of complaint and anticipated investigation time frame.
7. **Follow up on your report** with a phone call or email. Keep calling *until you get satisfactory results.*
8. **If possible, take photographs or videos of expected violation** (hardcopy or uploaded) and attach them to your emails as well as the ADEM online report. *They are VERY HELPFUL.*

Information gathered should be sent to:

Alabama Department of Environmental Management:

app.adem.alabama.gov/complaints/submission.aspx

Friends of the Locust Fork River info@flfral.com

Black Warrior Riverkeeper <https://blackwarriorriver.org/report-pollution/>

Alabama Rivers Alliance www.alabamarivers.org

If applicable, also file complaints with:

Blount County EMA: ema@blountcountyal.gov or 205-625-4121

Blount County Health Dept 205-274-2120

AL Dept. of Public Health (ADPH) www.adph.org

Alabama Emergency Management Agency | State Warning Point 800-843-0699
[24 hour hotline)

This is also ADEM's *after hours contact* # 1-800-843-0699

Environmental Protection Agency:

<https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) fws.gov/southeast/maps/al

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS):

nrcsdistributioncenter@ia.usda.gov or 888-526-3227

US Corp of Engineers (USACE) Birmingham Field Office 205-290-9096 to report
stream and wetland fills and dam construction

AL Dept of Conservation and Natural Resource -
Operation Game Watch 800-272-4263

to report fish kills:

outdooralabama.com/freshwater-fishing/reporting-freshwater-fish-kills

Too much information is never a problem when reporting a pollution event. Some organizations such as ADEM make reporting violations easy by having their own reporting form online. It is also helpful to have a person's name at the receiving organization to send the complaint information i.e. Attn: John Doe - Environmental Complaint Dept. So you may want to call the organization to determine who that person may be.