





# When fertilizer hits the roadway

Fertilizer spills could be toxic, posing health risks to community, environment

BY SARA EISINGER  
STAFF WRITER



PHOTO BY BEN SONNEK

The Sauk Centre Fire Department cleans a liquid fertilizer spill off the road April 12 just south of the intersection of Highway 71 and 12th Street in Sauk Centre. A bulk container of liquid fertilizer, which was determined non-hazardous, fell off the back of a truck and broke on the street.

When two liquid fertilizer containers spilled just south of Highway 71 and 12th Street on Friday afternoon, Sauk Centre Fire Department arrived promptly on the scene to begin clean-up.

Sauk Centre Fire Chief Jeff Bromenshenkel said the company that supplied the fertilizer in the April 12 spill determined it to be non-hazardous.

“We just had to water it down because the fertilizer was nontoxic,” Bromenshenkel said. “If it had been toxic, we would have had to put up sand barriers, call a hazmat team, shut down the whole road and everything, but we didn’t have to do that. We would’ve had to shut down for hours.”

Information found on the Stearns County website identifies hazardous materials as chemical substances

that can pose threats to the environment or community health. Such chemicals are used in industry, agriculture, medicine, research and consumer goods throughout the county.

Stearns County Environmental Services Supervisor Becky Schlorf said hazardous spills that occur within source water protection areas could negatively impact community drinking water and more.

“The environment may be impacted either in the immediate area such as with a fish kill, or further downstream such as hypoxia in

the Gulf of Mexico, since all our water eventually flows there,” Schlorf said.

According to recent findings from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, more than half of all accidents involving hazardous materials have occurred on state roadways. Roads are a major concern in Stearns County, due to the lack of information about what is being transported.

Bromenshenkel asked that drivers remain mindful of the volunteer fire crew when out cleaning fertilizer spills or whenever on duty. “It was the middle of

the afternoon and there was a lot of traffic,” Bromenshenkel said. “Understand that we are just there doing our jobs. Do not get frustrated that you have to take a different route.”

People responsible for spilling fertilizer, hydraulic oil and/or other chemicals are required by Minnesota state law (per Statute 115.061) to immediately report the incident to the Minnesota Duty Officer, regardless of quantity.

The Minnesota Duty Officer can be reached at 800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451.

# Boys golfers place 6th in season debut

Conference season gets busy early

BY TOM FENTON  
STAFF WRITER

The Sauk Centre Streeters boys golf team made their first trip to Litchfield Golf in several years and came home with a sixth-place finish in the season-opening event April 15 in Litchfield.

Sophomore Brayden Johnson made a good first impression for the Streeters, placing fifth in the 47-player field with a 10-over-par 80. Annandale junior Gavin Dahle blistered the field, shooting 66 for a nine-shot victory in helping the Cardinals to the team title.

“Brayden did a nice job of weathering some early

setbacks to post a good round,” said Tait Midthun, head coach. “We’ve been talking about posting the best score you can for that hole and that meet. They did that at a course that was new to us.”

Seniors Dylan Gruenes and Nolan Kampsen shot 91 and 93, respectively, and sophomore Daeson Seidel shot 96 in his varsity debut to complete the Streeters’ team score of 360.

“Nolan and Dylan both had some mistakes but posted some decent scores for us,” Midthun said. “Look for these two to limit mistakes in future matches and improve.”

Midthun said results were as expected for the first meet of the year.

“The players’ scores were up-and-down from hole-to-hole,” he said. “We’ll look to eliminate some bigger numbers to improve in our upcoming

match later this week.”

The tour of West Central Conference golf courses begins in earnest Friday, April 19. The Streeters will start logging plenty of windshield time, playing a WCC meet at 11 a.m. at River Crest Golf Course in Montevideo followed by a 4 p.m. meet at Olivia Golf Club in Olivia later that day.

Next is a meet at noon Tuesday, April 23, at Tip-sinah Golf Course in Elbow

Lake and a 4 p.m. tournament at Pomme De Terre Golf Course in Morris. The Streeters host an 18-hole boys and girls invite at noon Wednesday, April 24, at GreyStone Golf Club in Sauk Centre.

**Team:** 1. Annandale 319, 2. Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted/Maple Lake 339, 3. Litchfield 341, 4. Dassel-Cokato 342, 5. Paynesville 343, 6. Sauk Centre 360, 7. Glencoe-Silver Lake 378 and 8. Benson 386.

**Sauk Centre:** 5. Johnson 80, 22. Gruenes 91, 26. Kampsen 93, 32. Seidel 96, 36. Zach Klimek 102 and 41. Christopher Polipnick 106.

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## CLEAN UP TIME?

What are you going to do with all those hazardous or nuisance products lying around your home?

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION!

Products accepted include:

Paints	Automotive Chemicals	Adhesives
Cleaners	Sealers	Aerosols
Poisons	Garden Chemicals	Solvents
Roofing Tar	Pool Chemicals	Mothballs
Fuels	Fluorescent Bulbs	Mercury

Products NOT accepted include:

Used Motor Oil *	Antifreeze *	Electronics
Unknowns	Explosives	Household Garbage
Appliances	Furniture	Tires
Leaking/Open containers	Cleaning products larger than 1 gallon	Cleaning products in damaged containers
Pharmaceutical Waste	Medical Waste	Business Waste

Place: Hockey Arena, 818 Centre St, Sauk Centre, MN 56378  
Date: Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Time: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

\* Residents are encouraged to use the public used oil facilities located at Trucker’s Inn or throughout Stearns County.

**Donate Your Vehicle**  
For more information call Stearns County Environmental Services at 320-253-8000 ext. 450-0852 or (320) 650-3613. THANK YOU!

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CITY of SAUK CENTRE

## 2024 MAY

Scrap Metal & E-Waste (Electronics)

# CLEAN UP

Wednesday, May 8th • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The City of Sauk Centre is offering disposal of the following items for city residents:

**No Charge Items**

- Pots
- Pans
- Auto Batteries

**\$5.00 Each Item**

- Microwave
- Hot Water Heater
- Furnace
- Lawn Snee
- Etc.

**\$10 Each Item**

- Dehumidifier
- Stove
- Dishwasher
- Dryer
- Washer
- AC Unit

**\$20.00 Each Item**

- Softeners
- erators
- ers

**Miscellaneous E-Waste (no screens over 7") - \$5**  
**Any Screen 7" - 27" - \$25**  
**Most Screens Over 27" - \$35**  
**Oversized TV's & Console/Rear Projection - \$50**

**ABSOLUTELY NO RV REFRIGERATORS**

Drop off site is located at the Sauk Centre Civic Arena parking lot 818 Centre Street.

Call - 320-352-2203 ext. 5 for information

**WARS - A GREAT TIME TO CLEAN UP!**