

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

STORMWATER COMPLIANCE AT **CARD LOCK RETAIL GASOLINE OUTLETS**

Purpose

The purpose of this Compliance Assistance Bulletin is to help owners and operators of Retail Gasoline Outlets (RGOs) comply with Stormwater Program requirements, prepare for inspections, answer frequently asked questions, and provide additional resources.

Issue

As mandated by State requirements, the County of Sacramento Environmental Management Department (EMD) is implementing a stormwater compliance program on behalf of the County, and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Folsom, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento, as of July 1, 2004. **This program includes triennial stormwater compliance inspections at facilities such as retail gas stations.**

Gasoline, diesel, antifreeze, motor oil, grease, food waste, and other pollutants such as wastewater from surface washing activities, are often discharged, or otherwise washed into the **storm drainage system** from retail gasoline outlets (RGOs) and other businesses. When these pollutants enter the storm drainage system they flow untreated into our local waterways where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. Certain pollutants can also block or damage underground pipes and attract vermin. **Facility operators must prevent prohibited discharges to the storm drainage system and implement measures to effectively reduce pollutant sources associated with their activities.**

Stormwater Compliance Inspections/
Typical Areas of Concern

EMD is conducting Stormwater Compliance Inspections, typically in conjunction with Underground Storage Tank (UST) inspections, once every three years. **The following are typical areas of concern:**

- **Spills and leaks** from fuel dispensing, air/water service and UST fill areas must always be promptly cleaned up – preferably using dry-cleanup methods – and **never** washed, or allowed to run into the storm drainage system. This is especially important when fueling areas are uncovered. When unattended spills and/or saturated absorbent are not promptly cleaned up it is subject to being washed by rainfall or irrigation system overflows into the storm drainage system and/or is dispersed by vehicle tracking or wind.
- **Spill clean-up materials** should always be available onsite. Appropriate materials include: absorbent sweep, haz-mat and oil absorbent pillows and socks, and spill containment berms, or similar items to block and contain spills.
- **Surface cleaning and pressure washing** wash water must be contained, collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer, private sewage system or serviceable sump or, if hazardous, lawfully disposed of as hazardous waste. For more information, refer to the Best Management Practices for Pressure Washing booklet. Ask your EMD Environmental Specialist or call (916) 875-8400 for a copy. You may also refer to the Department website at <http://www.emd.saccounty.net>.

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Typical Areas of Concern
(continued)

- **Vehicle washing/detailing and auto repair/operations** must also be performed in a manner that prevents the discharge of pollutants to the storm drainage system. Call (916) 875-8400 or go to <http://www.emd.saccounty.net> for more information.
- **Dumpsters and waste containers** should be sound and leak free. Dumpster lids should always be closed when not in use and dumpsters should never be overfilled. Hazardous wastes such as used absorbent from fuel spills must be placed in sound, sealed, leak-free labeled containers and properly disposed of.

Corrective Action

Fuel and vehicle fluid spills, leaks, and drips must be cleaned promptly. Asking customers to toss absorbent down and providing once per day spill cleaning is not sufficient – especially at uncovered facilities and especially during the wet season (Oct. 1 – April 30).

- Provide spill cleanup as often as necessary to prevent accumulations
- Completely remove used absorbent from the ground and properly dispose of it
- Clean diesel that accumulates on and around the dispenser
- Never allow employees to wash spills to the storm drainage system

Stormwater violations will result in a **Notice of Violation** that requires the violations to be corrected and proof of compliance to be submitted within a given time frame. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis. If additional enforcement action is necessary due to failure to comply, it will be progressive and depend on the severity and duration of the violation. Fines of up to a maximum of \$5000 per violation are authorized by local ordinance.

Questions and Answers

Are storm drains and sanitary sewer drains different?

Yes – The **storm drainage system** directs untreated stormwater to our creeks and rivers. The sanitary sewer system directs water to a treatment plant. Drains located in streets and parking lots are storm drains. Outdoor drains rarely lead to the sanitary sewer.

Why should I be concerned about stormwater and storm drains?

Water pollution is everyone's business and should be a major concern for all residents. Polluted stormwater is a major source of contamination in our creeks and rivers.

For More Information

For more information and additional compliance assistance, call (916) 875-8400 or refer to the Department website, <http://www.emd.saccounty.net>.

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