

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

STORMWATER COMPLIANCE AT ALL FACILITIES

Purpose

The purpose of this Compliance Assistance Bulletin is to help facility operators comply with local stormwater ordinance requirements, prepare for compliance inspections, answer frequently asked questions, and provide additional resources.

Issue

As mandated by State requirements, 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 within specified industrial and commercial categories.**

Sediment, motor oil, grease, chemicals, food and animal waste, and wastewater from cleaning activities, are among pollutants that often get into the storm drainage system from a wide variety of businesses. When these pollutants enter the storm drainage system (includes storm drains, roadside drainage ditches, street gutters, drainage channels, and natural water ways), they flow directly into our local waters with no treatment for pollutant removal. These pollutants degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. Sediment and grease can also block or damage underground pipes.

Facility operators must prevent prohibited discharges to the storm drainage system and implement measures to reduce pollutant sources associated with their activities.

Stormwater Compliance Inspections/

EMD is conducting stormwater compliance inspections at facilities within specified industrial and commercial categories. When possible, the inspections will be conducted in conjunction with hazardous materials and food inspections. **The following are typical areas of concern:**

Typical Areas of Concern

- **Equipment and vehicle washing** must be conducted in a manner that prevents wash water, and associated sediment, grease, oil, fuel and other pollutants from entering the storm drainage system, or flowing off-site.
- **Equipment and vehicle repair / maintenance** should also be conducted indoors, if possible. If done outdoors, care must be taken to promptly clean leaks and spills, and greasy, oily parts should not be left outdoors without some form of coverage to prevent stormwater contact.
- **Equipment stored outdoors** must be checked for leakage of motor oil, hydraulic fluids, etc. Drip pans may be used to catch leaks on a temporary basis until repairs are made. Equipment covered with mud, tar, or other pollutants should be cleaned as described above or stored indoors. If stored outdoors, contaminated equipment should be covered with fastened tarps during winter months.
- **Sediment control** is essential, especially if your facility has unpaved areas. To help prevent problems associated with the track-out of mud and dirt, unpaved area access points should be stabilized by paving or covering with clean one inch or larger rock (approx. 3" deep), or other appropriate material, and **sweeping should be conducted on a regular basis.**

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Typical Areas of Concern
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- **Waste and material management:** Wastes/materials must be properly managed to prevent stormwater contact with pollutant sources likely to be washed off by rainfall, irrigation systems, dust suppression systems, etc. In many cases, fastened tarps may be used to provide coverage.
- **Spill response:** Employees should be trained to quickly clean up outdoor spills and leaks. Dry-cleanup methods with absorbents are preferred since it is a violation to wash pollutants into the storm drainage system.
- **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.
- **Ready-mix concrete** mixing and cleanup must be conducted in a manner that prevents concrete, slurry, and concrete rinse water from entering the storm drainage system or off-site areas. Cleanup should always be done in a contained area that drains to the sanitary sewer by way of an oil/water separator, into a private sewage disposal system, or into a serviceable sump.
- **Surface cleaning and pressure washing** wash water must be contained, collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer, private sewage or serviceable sump or, if hazardous, lawfully disposed of as hazardous waste. For more information, refer to Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Pressure Washing booklet. Ask your EMD Environmental Specialist or call 875-8440 for a copy. You may also refer to the Department website at EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET.

Corrective Action

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 into our creeks and rivers. The sanitary sewer system directs water to a plant where it is treated prior to discharge. 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) 875-8440 or refer to Department website, EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET.

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