



PACE
PARTNERS FOR A
CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

Gas Stations and Car Washes Stormwater Protection

Spring 2010

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater and snowmelt. When stormwater flows across our parking lots and streets, it can pick up pollutants that are discharged directly into our rivers and streams through the storm drains located on streets and in parking lots. Any pollutants entering these drains flows untreated to the water bodies we use for drinking water, swimming, and fishing.

What is Stormwater Protection?

The objective in stormwater protection is that only rainwater and snow melt go down the storm drain. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specific steps taken to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities of street maintenance operations. All employees shall review this information sheet as a training tool, and make every effort to keep pollutants from going down the storm drain by putting the following BMPs into practice.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

General

- Do not dump any liquids or other materials outside. Materials that are no longer contained in a pipe, tank, or other container are considered to be “threatened discharges” to stormwater unless they are actively being cleaned up. The direct flow of pollutants - as well as threatened discharges - to storm drains, gutters, or waterways is illegal.

Material Storage and Loading

- Do not store any liquids or materials that could impact surface water outside unless adequate secondary containment and cover are provided or the container is specifically designed for outdoor storage.
- Do not load or unload materials near a storm drain inlet or drainage ditch or over unpaved surfaces.

Fueling

- Post signage prohibiting “topping off” and describing spill response procedures.
- Keep a spill response kit at or near each fueling area.
- Require that the person doing the fueling remain present during entire fueling operation. (“Don’t walk away!”)

Bulk Liquid Material Loading & Unloading

- During bulk liquid transfer, cover or berm around all down-gradient storm drain inlets within 25 feet.
- Keep all drain valves in liquid bulk containers and secondary containments locked in the closed position.
- Require that at least one trained person (i.e. delivery

truck driver) remain present during entire liquid bulk transfer operations.

Maintenance Work

- No maintenance or repair work should be performed outside. Only emergency repairs and maintenance activities that do not involve fluids may be performed outdoors.
- Do not store leaking vehicles or equipment outdoors. Contain the leak, repair immediately, or move indoors and repair.

Vehicle Washing

- All vehicles must be washed in a designated washing area that drains to the sanitary sewer or an approved holding tank.
- Regular maintenance of sand/oil separator in designated car wash areas will ensure proper drainage.
- If materials from sand/oil are stored on site, it must be contained and covered. Any water decanting from the material must go directly to sanitary sewer.
- If drains in a car wash area become clogged, it should not be used until the issue is resolved.

Spill Response

- Use spill prevention methods to ensure no hazardous materials reach the floor or ground.
- Keep spill cleanup equipment in or near all work areas and use only “dry” cleanup methods to manage spills.
- Develop a formal Spill Response Plan. Post the plan near spill cleanup materials.
- Be sure all employees are trained in these procedures.
- Be sure all spills are reported to appropriate agencies.

Stormwater Runoff Control

- Maintain a map of the property, identifying directions of stormwater flow and storm drains.
- Mark storm drains on property.

Helpful Resources

See the PACE website for a list of helpful resource sheets

www.pacepartners.com

Keep It Clean Partnership

KICP is a collaborative approach in creating cost-effective solutions to implement a regional stormwater management program, not only to comply with Phase II regulations, but also to address broader water quality and watershed issues.

www.keepitcleanpartnership.org



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