

STORMWATER BMPS: SANITARY SEWER BACK UPS

AFFECTED FACILITIES

This BMP applies to all municipal sanitary sewer systems.

BACKGROUND

The back up of a sanitary sewer can result in the discharge of raw sewage to surface waters. This is both a threat to human health and to the environment. Back-ups, while rare, can involve large volumes of wastewater and can pose a substantial threat to the receiving surface waters.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Stop the discharge as quickly as possible.
- Do not pump sewage back-ups, disinfectant or disinfected sewage into streets, storm drains, ditches or surface waters.
- When a back up occurs, disinfect the contaminated area, take every effort to ensure that sewage, disinfectant and disinfected sewage is not discharged into a storm drain or ditch.

Methods may include:

- Blocking storm drain inlets and catch basins.
- Containing and diverting sewage and disinfectant away from open channels and other storm drain fixtures.
- Removing the material with vacuum equipment or Vactor truck.
- Do not clean tools or equipment in or near surface waters or over storm drains or ditches.
- When the emergency response actions are complete, inspect the flow path of the discharge. Identify any areas that may have experienced soil erosion and need repair and make a plan to repair them.

REQUIRED STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT

- None

INSTALLATIONS REQUIRED FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATIONS

- None

REQUIRED EMPLOYEE AND CONTRACTOR TRAINING

- Train all current employees who might be called upon to respond to sanitary sewer back-ups.
- Train all new hires and job transferees who will conduct sanitary sewer back-up response on this BMP.
- Conduct refresher training on this BMP for all employees and contractors who respond to sewer back-ups.
- Contracts should stipulate that all contracted employees are trained in stormwater pollution prevention BMPs.

REQUIRED MAINTENANCE

- Ensure all sanitary sewer lines are inspected and cleaned regularly as to prevent back ups.

RECORDS

- Keep records and maps of all sewer lines in your municipality.
- Keep records of all sanitary sewer back-ups including the location, the estimated amount of sewage and/or disinfectant discharged and the results of the clean-up efforts. Report sewage back-ups to the municipal stormwater and wastewater coordinators.
- Keep records of employees trained.

REFERENCES

1. Colorado's Phase II Municipal Guidance, October 2001
2. *California Stormwater BMP Handbook*, January 2003
3. *Knoxville (TN) BMP Manual, Activities & Methods*, January 2001
4. *City of Tacoma: Surface Water Management Manual (Vol. IV Source Control BMPs)*, January 2003
5. *Municipal Facility Runoff Control Plan* (City of Lakewood, CO)
6. *Best Management Practices for Industrial Storm Water Pollution Control* (Santa Clara Valley, CA)
7. Proposed Rule: NPDES Permit Requirements for Municipal Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems, Municipal Satellite Collection Systems and Sanitary Sewer Overflows ("CMOM"), *Federal Register*, January 4, 2001