Partners for A Clean Environment **Fall 2003**

Stormwater Best Management Practices for Municipal Storm Drainage System Maintenance Operations

Federal regulations require stormwater protection practices to be in place in municipal operations and businesses that have the potential to pollute stormwater. Storm drain system maintenance operations are crucial in preventing pollutants from entering storm drains. Conversely, if not properly maintained, they can be a significant contributor to stormwater pollution. Anything entering a storm sewer system flows untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. This includes leaves, trash, and hazardous chemicals. The storm water system collects and transports urban runoff and snowmelt that may contain pollutants. Any pollutant that might wind up on a street or parking lot can wind up in the storm drain. This may include oil and grease, trash, leaves and other oxygen depleting compounds. Maintaining catch basins, storm water inlets and other storm water conveyance structures on a regular basis will remove pollutants, prevent clogging downstream, restore catch basins' ability to trap sediments, and ensure the system functions properly to avoid flooding.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The objective in stormwater protection is that ***only rainwater and snow melt go down the storm drain***. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specific steps to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities of storm drain system maintenance operations. The BMPs address not only direct flow of pollutants to storm drains, but also "threatened discharges" where there is a high probability for stormwater pollution (such as a leaking waste oil drum without secondary containment or any spills or wastes that have been released and are not actively being cleaned up). All affected 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.

Activity	Best Management Practices
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 "threatened discharges" unless they are actively being cleaned up. Direct flow of pollutants as well as threatened discharges to storm drains, gutters, or waterways ***are illegal***. **See list of allowable discharges on back page.*
Storm Drainage System Maintenance	• Clean catch basins on a regular schedule or when they become 40% full of debris. • Drain decanted water collected from storm system cleaning into sanitary sewer only. • Do not temporarily store or dispose of collected storm system debris within 100 feet of any surface water, storm drain inlet, or drainage ditch (unless it's at a lower elevation). • Collect wastes removed from catch basins that are suspected of contamination (such as oil, antifreeze, other industrial wastes) and dispose of these wastes properly*. Some wastes may be hazardous. • Stay alert for any signs of illicit discharges (anything except rain water that is allowed to flow into any storm drain inlet or drainage ditch). This includes "dry weather" flows, pipes or hoses emptying into storm drains, and "threatened discharges". (*See back page for allowable discharges.)* • Report any suspicious discharges to your supervisor or Storm Water Coordinator promptly. *(See list on back page.)* • Mark or stencil storm drain inlets "Warning: Drains to Creek, Do Not Dump" (schedule as per WASH agreement).

**Storm drainage maintenance wastes may be either non-hazardous or hazardous. Solid non-hazardous waste may be disposed in a sanitary landfill or recycled. Liquid non-hazardous wastes must be absorbed before sanitary landfill disposal. Hazardous waste, as defined under Colorado Hazardous Waste Regulations (6 CCR 1007-3), must be transported and disposed of at a RCRA-permitted disposal or treatment facility. Contact the Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division at 303-692-3300 for applicable requirements.*

****Allowable non-storm water discharges include the following *only*:**

- Water line flushing or other potable water sources
- Landscape irrigation or lawn watering irrigation return flows
- Diverted stream flows
- Rising groundwater
- Uncontaminated ground water infiltration to storm drains (as defined by 40 CFR 35.2005 (20)
- Uncontaminated pumped ground water
- Foundation or footing drains
- Crawl space pumps
- Air conditioning condensation
- Natural springs
- Individual residential car washing or car washing of less than two (2) consecutive days in duration for charity or nonprofit fund raising,
- Natural riparian habitat or wet-land flows
- Swimming pools (if de-chlorinated or less than 0.05 PPM chlorine),
- Street wash water and any other water source not containing pollutants
- Discharges approved by the authorized enforcement agency as being necessary to protect public health and safety, such as flows from firefighting, and dye testing, provided the person undertaking such testing provides verbal notification to the authorized enforcement agency 24 hours prior to the time of the test.

Note: This list may vary per municipality.

Watershed Approach to Stream Health (WASH)

To cost-effectively meet stormwater regulations and the region's water quality needs, several municipal governments in the Boulder Creek and St. Vrain watersheds joined together as part of the Watershed Approach to Stream Health (WASH) Project. Participants include Boulder County; the cities of Boulder, Longmont and Louisville; and the towns of Superior and Erie. The primary goal of the WASH Project is to implement a regional stormwater management program and to address broader water quality and watershed issues common to the Boulder Creek and St. Vrain Creek drainage areas. WASH is partnering with the PACE Program to help municipal operations and businesses implement stormwater BMPs.

WASH Project Stormwater Coordinators

City of Boulder: Donna Scott, Stormwater Quality Specialist, 303-413-7364
Boulder County: Dave Webster, Transportation/Engineering, 303-441-3900 x5185
Mark Williams, Boulder County Public Health, 303-441-1143, Denise Grimm, Land Use Planning 303-441-3930
City of Longmont: Ela Nelson, Civil Engineer, 303-774-4390, David Hollingsworth, Civil Engineer, 303-651-8328
City of Louisville: Ken Mason, Public Works, 303-335-7480
Town of Superior: Jeanne Boyle, McLaughlin Water Engineers, 303-458-5550
Town of Erie: Wendi Palmer, 303-926-2875
WASH Project Coordinator, Janice Buswell Lopitz, Boulder County Public Health, 303-441-1439