



## Universal Best Management Practices for Stormwater Protection

Federal regulations require stormwater protection practices to be in place in municipal operations and businesses that have the potential to pollute stormwater. Many practices in municipal and business operations may contribute to stormwater pollution. These include storing chemicals outside, allowing dumpsters to become full of water and leak out, allowing leaves and landscaping wastes pile up and blow or be washed into the storm sewer, and discharging secondary containment or other polluted water to the street where it can be washed into the storm sewer. Anything entering a storm sewer system flows untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking water.

### **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 taken to prevent stormwater pollution as a result of day-to-day activities. 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                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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. Direct flow of pollutants as well as threatened discharges to storm drains, gutters, or waterways are illegal. <i>*See list of allowable discharges on back page.</i></li> </ul>  |
| Dewatering                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not discharge water collected from any secondary containment structure to any storm drain unless the water is determined to be free of contamination (no visible “sheen”, floatables, sediments, turbidity, color or odor).</li> <li>• Water removed from secondary containment structures that is determined to have <u>only</u> sediments or solids may be filtered or allowed to settle and then the clean water can be discharged to storm drainage. This must be done under supervision and a record made of the event.</li> </ul>   |
| Employee & Contractor Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that all affected employees and contractors are given initial and annually updated training on Stormwater Pollution Prevention. (PACE will provide training materials).</li> </ul>  |
| Good Housekeeping              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep all outdoor work areas neat and tidy. Sweep around work areas after each shift and properly dispose of all wastes.</li> <li>• Do not handle, use, transfer or pour any materials near a storm drain inlet or drainage ditch.</li> </ul>   |
| Illicit Discharge Reporting    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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”. <i>*See back page for allowable discharges.</i></li> <li>• Report any suspicious discharges to your supervisor or Storm Water Coordinator promptly (see list on back page).</li> </ul>  |
| Service Contracts & Leases     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All service contracts and property leases must stipulate that contractors and lessees comply with applicable storm water BMPs in the conduct of their services or occupancy.</li> </ul>  |
| Spill Clean-up                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a formal Spill Response Plan and post near clean up materials.</li> <li>• Ensure that adequate spill kits are located near all outdoor work areas where materials or supplies are used, stored, loaded, off-loaded or transferred.</li> <li>• Clean up any spills or leaks quickly and thoroughly.</li> <li>• Use only “dry” clean up methods. Never “hose down” a spill.</li> <li>• For spills of liquids, use the “3-Step Method”:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Spread absorbents (loose, sheets or pigs) on the spill.</li> <li>2. Sweep up the absorbed material and dispose of the wastes properly.</li> <li>3. If residues remain, mop up and dispose of mop water into a sanitary sewer.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• If a spill threatens to enter a storm drain, place absorbents, earth or other impervious material to block its’ entry before starting clean-up.</li> <li>• If a spill or leak threatens to escape the facility boundaries or enter any surface water body, call</li> </ul> |

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|                             | the State spill notification hotline at (877-518-5608) immediately.  |
| Waste Management & Disposal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Never dispose of any wastes or other materials in or near any storm drain inlet or drainage ditch.</li> <li>• All waste receptacles must be sturdy, leak-tight, and equipped with lids or covers. Keep all outdoor waste receptacles closed unless adding or removing material.</li> <li>• Do not wash out waste receptacles outdoors unless wastewater will be discharged to a sanitary sewer.</li> <li>• Never place liquids or liquid-containing wastes in an outdoor waste receptacle.</li> </ul> |

**\*Allowable non-storm water discharges include the following only:** *Note: This list may vary per municipality.*

- 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
- Individual residential car washing or car washing of less than two (2) consecutive days in duration for charity or nonprofit fund raising
- Natural springs, 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.

### **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, Boulder County Transportation/Engineering, 303-441-3900 x5185  
Mark Williams, Boulder County Public Health, 303-441-1143

Denise Grimm, Boulder County 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