

STORMWATER BMPS: FIRE FIGHTING ACTIVITIES

AFFECTED FACILITIES

These BMPs apply at all locations where municipal or county firefighters use water from fire hydrants or fire suppressant chemicals to fight a fire. *(These BMPs only apply after the fire is under control and personnel are available to conduct these activities.)*

BACKGROUND

The wastewater from fire fighting can contain a variety of contaminants primarily sediments from ashes. Storm water can also be contaminated with hydrocarbons from car and engine fires. These contaminants can flow into surface waters near the fire if wastewater is allowed to enter storm drains or ditches.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- If hazardous materials are suspected in the wastewater from a fire, contact the Boulder County Environmental Emergency Response Team (EERT) or auxiliary fire personnel to block storm drain inlets, drainage ditches or creeks and to assure cleanup. Contact EERT by calling 303-441-3851 and entering pager number 5800, or have Dispatch page EERT.
- If the wastewater is suspected of being hazardous, take samples for testing to determine proper disposal methods.
- Use covers, waddles, sand bag dams or plastic sheeting to prevent fire-fighting flows from reaching storm drains or surface waters.
- Never flush materials into storm drains! Even dirt and sediment are considered pollutants.
- Be aware of storm drains during fire training activities. Protect storm drains whenever possible.
- If wastewater accumulates in pools or low areas, take samples for testing to determine proper disposal.
- During fire extinguisher training, spray extinguishers only in areas where the foam can be collected. Sweep up any spilled foam and dispose of properly. Do not hose down waste extinguisher materials to the storm drain.
- Discharge from dry chemical suppression systems must be disposed of properly.
- When performing engine pump tests or hydrant tests, direct water flow to landscaping if possible.

REQUIRED STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT

- None

INSTALLATIONS REQUIRED FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION OR RENOVATIONS

- None

REQUIRED EMPLOYEE TRAINING

- Train all current fire fighters on these BMPs.

- Train all new hire fire fighters on this BMP before they are assigned to their new duties.
- Conduct refresher training for all fire fighters as needed.

REQUIRED MAINTENANCE

- None

RECORDS

- Keep records of employee training.

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)