



**PACE**  
PARTNERS FOR A  
CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

# Municipal Fire Departments

## *Stormwater Protection*

Fall 2009

### 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 store or dispose of 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. Threatened discharges as well as direct flows of pollutants are illegal.
- Be familiar with the locations of storm drains and spill kits around and within your facility.

#### Extinguisher Training

- During fire extinguisher training, spray extinguishers only in areas where the foam can be collected. Sweep up any spilled foam and dispose of properly.

#### Fire Fighting and Emergency Response

- If hazardous materials are suspected, contact the Boulder County Environmental Emergency Response Team (BCEERT) or auxiliary fire personnel to block storm drain inlets, drainage ditches or creeks and to assure cleanup. Contact BCEERT by calling 303-441-3851 and entering pager number 5800, or have Dispatch page BCEERT. If the wastewater is suspected of being hazardous, take samples for testing to determine proper disposal methods.
- Never flush materials into storm drains! Even dirt and sediment are considered pollutants.
- Be aware of storm drains. Protect storm drains during fire training activities.

## **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 or liquid transfer remain present during entire fueling operation. (“Don’t walk away!”)
- When fueling equipment in the field, use a funnel or containers with spouts to prevent spills.

## **Good Housekeeping**

- Keep all outdoor work areas neat and tidy. Sweep around work areas after each shift and properly dispose of all wastes.
- Do not hose down any outdoor work areas, spills, waste containers or waste storage areas except where wash water will only enter the sanitary sewer.

## **Hose, Engine and Pump Training**

- If possible, discharge engine or hose training wastewater to landscaping or grassy areas, not to parking lots, streets or storm drains.
- When performing a “pump test” direct water flow to landscaping if possible.
- Illegal Discharge Reporting
- Stay alert for any signs of illegal discharges or illicit connections (anything except rain water that is allowed to flow into any storm drain inlet or drainage ditch) including dry weather flows, pipes or hoses emptying into storm drains, and “threatened discharges”. (See below for “Allowable Discharges”.)
- Report any suspicious discharges to the Storm Water Coordinator for your municipality.

## **Spill Cleanup and Prevention**

- Develop a formal “Spill Response Plan” and post the plan near spill clean up materials.
- Ensure that adequate spill kits are located near all work areas where materials are used, stored, loaded, off-loaded or transferred or on emergency response vehicles.
- Clean up any spills or leaks quickly and thoroughly. Use only “Dry Clean-up Methods”. Never hose down a spill!
- If a spill threatens escape the facility boundaries, enter a storm drain or any surface water, place absorbents, earth, or other impervious material to block its’ entry and call the State Spill Notification Hotline at (877-518-5608) and Boulder County Dispatch (303-441-4444) immediately.

## **Vehicle Washing and Repair**

- Wash vehicles only at designated wash areas that drain to the sanitary sewer or take vehicles to a commercial or city-operated car wash. Never wash vehicles in the parking lot or driveway.
- Perform maintenance or repair work inside only. 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 (with drip pans), repair immediately, or move indoors and repair.

## Waste Management and Disposal

- Dumpsters or trash cans must be sturdy, leak-tight, and equipped with lids or covers.
- Keep all outdoor waste receptacles closed unless adding or removing material.
- Place waste receptacles indoors or under a roof whenever possible.
- Never place liquids or liquid containing wastes in an outdoor waste receptacle.

## Helpful Resources

See the PACE website for a list of helpful resource sheets  
[www.pacepartners.com](http://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](http://www.keepitcleanpartnership.org)



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