



**PACE**  
PARTNERS FOR A  
CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

# Street Maintenance *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 dump any liquids or other materials outside.

### Bridge Maintenance

- Do not transfer or load any materials directly over waterways.
- Secure lids and caps on all containers when stored on bridges.
- Place drop cloths or nets below any bridgework where wastes, scraps or drips might threaten waterways.

### Concrete Pouring or Finishing (applies to contractors)

- Designate a "Wash Out Area" on the job site in a grassy or graveled area where pooled water can soak into the ground. Use for all equipment. Never wash out in street, creek, ditch or storm drain.
- If no "Wash Out Area" is available, wash out into a container, dispose in a posted Wash Out Area at another job site (with site owner permission) or return to the batch plant for disposal.

### Fueling

- Post signage prohibiting "topping off" and describing spill response procedures.
- Keep a spill response kit at or near each fueling area. Inspect and clean the area daily.
- Require that the person doing the fueling or liquid transfer remain present during entire fueling operation. ("Don't walk away!")
- When fueling in the field from small containers, use a funnel or containers with spouts to prevent spills.
- During bulk liquid (i.e. oil, gas or fertilizer) transfer, cover or berm around all down-gradient storm drain inlets within 25 feet. Keep all drain valves in liquid bulk containers and secondary containments locked in the closed position

### Illegal Discharge Reporting

- Stay alert for any signs of "illegal discharges or illicit connections" (anything except rain water flowing into any storm drain inlet or drainage ditch). This includes dry weather flows, pipes or hoses emptying into storm drains, and "threatened discharges".
- Report any suspicious discharges to your supervisor or Stormwater Coordinator promptly.

## Painting & Striping

- Schedule painting and striping projects during dry weather only.
- Use thermoplastic markings in place of paint whenever feasible.

## Salt/Sand Storage

- Salt/sand mix or Ice Slicer should be stored on paved areas that are bermed or lined with impervious materials to adequately prevent the salt from escaping.
- Cover salt/sand storage areas.

## Street Maintenance

- Install storm drain protection devices (wattles, "pigs", socks, or drain covers) around or over storm drain inlets when doing any maintenance work within 25 feet of the inlet(s).
- Coordinate street sweeping with construction or maintenance activities. Sweep or vacuum up wastes from all maintenance work (e.g. saw cutting and chip sealing) throughout and after the project and dispose of wastes properly.
- Schedule chip sealing projects during dry weather only.
- Provide for erosion and/or sediment control on all areas subject to erosion.

## Street Sweeping

- Operate all sweepers according to manufacturer's recommended settings and standards including sweeper speed, brush alignment and rotation rate.
- Schedule special sweepings immediately after all events like street fairs, art shows and parades and after street maintenance projects such as saw cutting, chip sealing, and construction projects.
- Do not conduct street sweeping during or immediately after rainstorms.
- Take collected debris directly to a permitted landfill or to a temporary storage area where it will not be released into storm drainage or surface waters. The storage area should be impervious, contained, more than 100 feet from and at a lower elevation than any water body, creek, river, ditch or storm drain inlet.

## Spill Response

- Use spill prevention methods to ensure no hazardous materials reach the floor or ground.
- Keep spill cleanup equipment in or near all work areas and on vehicles and use only "dry" cleanup methods to manage spills.
- Have a formal Spill Response Plan. Post the Spill Plan near spill cleanup materials.

## Stormwater Runoff Prevention

- Maintain a map of the property, identifying directions of stormwater flow and storm drains.
- Mark storm drains on site with decals or stencils.

## Vehicle Washing, Repair and Storage

- Vehicles (pick-up trucks, dump trucks, sweepers, or on-road vehicles) must be washed in a designated washing area that drains to the sanitary sewer or must be taken to a commercial or other designated car washing facility.
- Do not store leaking vehicles or equipment outdoors. Contain the leak, repair immediately, or move indoors and repair. Inform service manager of the leaking vehicle and location.

## 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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