A-2: Outdoor Storage of Liquid Materials in Stationary Tanks

Stormwater runoff (rainwater and snow melt) is the largest source of pollution to our lakes, streams and Puget Sound. King County requires businesses to implement measures to protect our shared waters. If the requirements below do not prevent pollution, additional measures are necessary."

The following best management practices (BMPs) apply to the outdoor storage of liquid materials in stationary containers and indoor storage where the potential exists to flow outside.

This does not apply to underground storage tanks or to businesses permitted by the Washington State Department of Ecology to treat, store or dispose of dangerous wastes. Storage of reactive, combustibles or flammable liquids must comply with the King County Fire Code (KCC 17).

Required BMPs

- Store and contain liquid materials so if the tank leaks, the contents will not get into the stormwater drainage system, surface waters or groundwater. This requires secondary containment or using a double–walled tank.
- Place small, gravity–fed farm fuel tanks without secondary containment on flat and open ground so that a spill or leak will not run downhill toward creeks, ditches, floor drains or drain tiles before it can be contained and cleaned up.
- Place tanks securely on stable ground.
- Label all containers with the product name and associated hazards (e.g., flammable, corrosive, toxic or reactive).
- Install a spill control device (e.g., an oil/water separator or down–turned elbow) in the catch basins that collect runoff from the tank storage area if the liquid is oil, gas, or other material that separates from and floats on water.
- Place drip pans or absorbent materials under taps and at all potential drip and spill locations during filling and unloading of tanks. Properly dispose of collected liquids and absorbent materials. Turn over empty drip pans when not in use of move under cover.
- Have spill cleanup materials/spill kit near the tanks and any liquid transfer areas.
- Post a spill plan and keep contact information current.
- Train all employees on spill response methods and procedures.

Required Routine Maintenance

- Sweep and clean paved storage areas as needed. Do not hose down the area to a storm drain.
- Check tanks and sumps/catch basins regularly for leaks and spills. Collect and dispose of all spilled liquids.

- Inspect spill control devices regularly and remove floating oil and debris.
- Collect and properly dispose of stormwater that collects in containment areas.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: hydrocarbons—such as gasoline and diesel, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Containment
    - Disposal
    - Oil/Water Separator
    - Spill Response and Cleanup Plan

For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206–477–4811 and visit kingcounty.gov/stormwater.