A-42: Potable Water Line Flushing, Water Tank Maintenance and Hydrant Testing

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.

Required BMPs

- Remove solids from associated curbs and gutters before flushing water. Use erosion and sediment control BMPs such as those found in the *King County Surface Water Design Manual* (straw wattles, D.2.1.2.5; and catch basin inlet protection, C.3.9) to collect any solids resulting from flushing activities.
- Discharge water to the sanitary sewer if super chlorination or chemical treatment is used as part of flushing. If sanitary sewer is not available, the water may be infiltrated to the ground as long as it:
    - is dechlorinated to a total residual chlorine concentration of 0.1 ppm or less;
    - meets water quality standards;
    - is discharged through a diffuser to prevent erosion; and
    - does not cross property lines.
- Discharging water (chlorinated to any degree or dechlorinated) to a stormwater drainage system requires approval from King County Stormwater Services. The water must be:
    - dechlorinated to a total residual chlorine concentration of 0.1 ppm or less;
    - pH adjusted if necessary; and
    - volumetrically and velocity controlled to prevent resuspension of sediments in the municipal separate storm sewer system.
- Do not over apply dechlorination products. This can deplete the dissolved oxygen concentration and reduce the pH in discharge/receiving waters. Dechlorination products can include ascorbic acid/sodium ascorbate, calcium thiosulfate, sodium sulfite tablets, sodium thiosulfate, sodium bisulfite or other alternate dechlorination products.

Supplemental BMPs

- If possible, design flushing to convey accumulated materials to strategic locations such as a treatment facility, preventing resuspension and overflow of the solids during storm events.
- If possible, conduct flushing and tank maintenance activities on non-rainy days and during the time of the year that poses the least risk to aquatic biota.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: fecal coliform bacteria, metals, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.

- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-3: Storage of Liquid Materials in Portable Containers
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 5: Information Sheets
    - Water Quality Treatment BMPs
- *King County Surface Water Design Manual*

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