A-45: Maintenance of Public and Private Utility Corridors and Facilities

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 maintenance activities associated with the transmission and distribution of public and private utilities such as petroleum products, natural gas, water, sewage, and electrical power. This includes the maintenance of underground utility vaults, pump stations, and similar facilities.

Required BMPs

- Minimize the amount of herbicides and other pesticides used to maintain access roads and facilities.
- Stabilize access roads or areas of bare ground with gravel, crushed rock, or another method to prevent erosion. Use and manage vegetation to minimize bare ground/soils that may be susceptible to erosion.
- Provide stormwater drainage for roads and maintenance areas. Grade roads with a crown or slope to minimize the potential for erosion from runoff. Provide ditches, swales, and culverts to convey stormwater runoff.
- Keep ditches and culverts properly clear to reduce the possibility of the drainage becoming plugged or blocked, which could cause overflows and erosion.
- Check utility vaults or other underground structures for oil prior to pumping out any collected water. Contaminated water must be collected for proper disposal. Small amounts of oil may be captured with absorbent material. Never discharge contaminated water, including oil, sediment, or high or low pH, to stormwater drainage systems, stormwater drainage facilities or surface waters.
- When removing water and/or sediment from electrical transformer vaults, determine from records or testing if the transformers contain PCBs. Properly dispose of accumulated water and sediment from these vaults.
- Clean up any debris or spilled material immediately after completing maintenance and repair activities.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: hydrocarbons—such as gasoline and diesel, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.
- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-3: Storage of Liquid Materials in Portable Containers
    - A-5: Storage and Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers

  - A-22: Painting, Finishing and Coating of Vehicles, Products and Equipment
  - A-26: Landscaping Activities, Vegetation Management, and Irrigation
- *King County Surface Water Design Manual*, Appendix D: Erosion and Sediment Control Standards
- Work in public road right of ways requires permission from King County Utility Inspection Program, call 206-296-8122.

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