A-48: Mobile Fueling of Vehicles and Heavy Equipment

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 apply to mobile fueling, also known as fleet fueling, wet fueling, or wet hosing. Mobile fueling is the practice of filling fuel tanks of vehicles or equipment by fuel tank trucks, tank trailers, and trucks with accessory fueling tanks that are driven to the yards or sites where the vehicles to be fueled are located.

Required Operational BMPs

- Obtain approval from the local fire department. Comply with local and Washington State fire codes.
- The driver/operator must be present and constantly observe all fuel transfer operations to ensure the implementation of the following procedures at all fuel transfer locations:
    - To the extent practical, locate the point of fueling at least 25 feet from the nearest storm drain or drainage ditch, or inside an impervious containment with a volumetric holding capacity equal to or greater than 110 percent of the fueling tank volume, or covering the catch basin to prevent discharge of spilled or leaked fuel. Covers are not required for storm drains that convey the inflow to a spill control separator approved by the local jurisdiction and the fire department;
    - Place a leak-proof drip pan or an absorbent pad under each fueling location prior to and during all dispensing operations. The pan or the absorbent pad must have a capacity of at least 5 gallons. There is no need to report spills retained in the drip pan or the pad;
    - Manage the handling and operation of fuel transfer hoses and nozzle, drip pan(s), and absorbent pads as needed to prevent spills/leaks of fuel from reaching the ground, storm drains, or surface waters;
    - Do not extend fueling hoses across a traffic lane without fluorescent traffic cones, or equivalent devices, conspicuously placed to block all traffic from crossing the fuel hose;
    - Remove the fill nozzle and cease filling the tank when the automatic shut-off valve engages. Do not lock automatic shutoff fueling nozzles in the open position;
    - Do not “top off” the fuel tanks; and
    - Do not use dispersants or soap to clean up spills or sheens.
- Develop and follow a mobile fueling plan that includes the required operational BMPs and spill response procedures.

- The responsible manager shall:
    - Sign and date the mobile fueling plan;
    - Distribute mobile fueling procedures to all operators; and
    - Update and retain the mobile fueling plan in the organization files.
- Immediately notify the local fire department (911) and Washington State Department of Ecology in the event of any spill entering surface or ground waters. Establish a "call down list" to ensure the rapid and proper notification of management and government officials should any significant amount of product be lost off-site. Keep the list in a protected but readily accessible location in the mobile fueling truck. The "call down list" should also pre-identify spill response contractors available in the area to ensure the rapid removal of significant product spillage into the environment.
- Train the driver/operator upon hiring, and annually thereafter, on proper fueling procedures, spill prevention, cleanup measures, and emergency procedures. Make all employees are aware of the significant liability associated with fuel spills.
- The driver/operator of the fueling vehicle must have:
    - A current copy of the mobile fueling plan;
    - Adequate flashlights or other mobile lighting to view fuel fill openings with poor accessibility; and
    - Two-way communication with the operator's home base.
- Maintain a minimum of the following spill clean-up materials in all fueling vehicles, that are readily available for use:
    - Non-water absorbents capable of absorbing at least 15 gallons of diesel fuel;
    - A catch basin plug or cover kit;
    - Two, five-gallon buckets with lids or sealable disposal bags;
    - A non-spark generating shovel; and
    - For fuel tankers and trailers with fueling tanks greater than 100 gallons, a non-water absorbent containment boom, minimum 10 feet in length with a 12-gallon minimum absorbent capacity.
- Use automatic shutoff nozzles for dispensing the fuel. Replace automatic shut-off nozzles as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Maintain fueling equipment, particularly hoses and nozzles.

Additional Information

- Potential pollutants can include: hydrocarbons—such as gasoline and diesel, metals, oil and grease, and oxygen demanding substances.
- *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

- Controlling and Collecting Contaminated Runoff
- Spill Response and Clean-up Plan

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