A-50: Emergency Responders

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 situations when a responder is dispatched to a fire, vehicle/vessel accident or any other situation that involves the discharge of pollutants to a stormwater drainage system, surface water—such as a lake or stream, or to the ground.

Spill Reporting

- Contact the Washington Emergency Management Division at 1-800-OILS-911 (1-800-645-7911) and report the incident. Assistance is available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The sooner the call is made, the sooner a cleanup response can be coordinated with the responsible jurisdiction.
- During regular business hours you can call the appropriate Washington State Department of Ecology office.

Ecology Regional Offices
Northwest: (206)594-0000
Southwest: (360)407-6300
Central: (509)575-2490
Eastern: (509)329-3400

- The contact will need some basic information to relay to the appropriate jurisdiction for spill cleanup response. When reporting please include:
    - Location of accident or discharge
    - Time of occurrence
    - Were pollutants discharged to the stormwater drainage system, surface water or ground? This includes firefighting foam (e.g. Novacool).
    - For fire response, if AFFF was used, please mention it.
    - If pollutants were discharged, please include what they were and approximate volumes so the responding jurisdiction can arrive on scene with the appropriate level of cleanup materials.

On-scene Required BMPs

The protection of life and property is priority. When the scene has stabilized and all threats to life and property have been eliminated, please implement the required BMPs below.

- If there is free moving product—such as a coolant leak from a car accident—or if firefighting chemicals have been used, protect all storm drains and pathways where pollutants can flow offsite.
- Use absorbent pads and booms to demobilize discharged pollutants.
- Do not hose down pollutants to the side of the road. If a quick cleanup is needed, please use a broom or other dry methods.
- The jurisdiction responsible for spill response will most likely need to clean and vactor out the stormwater drainage system to remove all collected pollutants. Stormwater drainage system cleanouts can be very expensive so any efforts made to reduce the flow of pollutants into the stormwater drainage system is appreciated.
- All hazardous waste and sharps/medical waste must be disposed of properly.

Training and Maintenance BMPs

- Firefighting foams and other pollutants may not be discharged to stormwater drainage systems, surface waters or groundwater during non-emergency events—such as training exercises. All discharged pollutants must be cleaned up and disposed of properly, either to the sanitary sewer or hauled offsite for disposal.
- Junk vehicles used for training exercises must be drained of all fluids, otherwise all discharged automotive fluids must be cleaned up and disposed of properly. Block nearby storm drains to prevent pollutants from entering the stormwater drainage system.
- Vehicle washing must be done in a contained area where all wash water is collected and either recycled or discharged to the sanitary sewer. Wash water may not be discharged to a stormwater drainage system or surface waters. For additional information on vehicle washing and cleaning, refer to BMP activity sheet A-13: Vehicle Washing and Steam Cleaning.
- Stockpiled AFFF must be stored in secondary containment and routinely checked for leaks.
- Stormwater runoff from firefighting training areas may not be discharged to underground injection control (UIC) wells. For additional information, refer to BMP activity sheet A-57: Underground Injection Control (UIC).

Additional Information

- *Stormwater Pollution Prevention Manual*, Chapter 3: Commercial and Multifamily BMPs
    - A-11: Cleaning or Washing of Tools and Equipment
    - A-13: Vehicle Washing and Steam Cleaning
    - A-18: Vehicle and Equipment Repair and Maintenance

  - A-57: Underground Injection Control (UIC)
- Washington State Department of Ecology, Report a Spill of Oil or Hazardous Materials
- Washington State Department of Ecology, Aqueous Film-Forming Foam Guidance for Firefighting Organizations

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