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Pollution Prevention:
Industrial Operation Best Management Plans (BMPs)

This fact sheet discusses BMPs that prevent the discharge of pollutants to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) from industrial facilities. Best management practices are common sense, good housekeeping measures that can be implemented at reasonable effort and cost to the facility owner/operator. While BMPs are often directly related to operational practices, structural or operational BMPs may be required at facilities due to pollutive discharges or poor operational practices.

There are several activities that can potentially cause the discharge of pollutants to the storm drainage system from these facilities. The activities of concern can include:

- Vehicle Maintenance
 - Cleaning Engines,
 - Parts Cleaning
 - Storing used Automotive or Equipment Parts
 - Fuel dispensing
 - Flushing Radiators
 - Changing Oil and Other Fluids
 - Body Repair and Painting
 - Vehicle Washing

- Facility Maintenance
 - Landscaping & Grounds Maintenance
 - Surface Cleaning
 - Parking Lot Washing
 - Facility Maintenance
 - Spill Cleanup

- Process Waste
 - Equipment Rinse Water
 - Material Storage Waste
 - Improperly Handled Raw Materials
 - Improperly Handled Industrial Waste

Some of the pollutants of concern from these facilities are:

- Metals (copper, zinc, chromium, nickel, and lead)
- Oil and Grease
- Gasoline
- Toxic Chemicals
- Cleaning Products
- Solvents
- Pesticides and Herbicides

Keep a clean shop by:

Use drip pans under leaking vehicles to capture fluids

Regularly sweep or vacuum the shop floor and other paved surfaces at your facility. Use mopping as an alternative to hosing down or washing work areas. If mopping is used to clean shop floors:

- Clean any spilled oil or fluids using absorbent materials (oil-dry or kitty litter).
- Use dry cleanup methods (i.e.: sweep the floor using absorbent material).
- If mopping is still required, mop and dispose of mop water in the sanitary sewer.
- Never pour dirty mop water into the paved areas, street, gutter, or storm drains.

Remove unnecessary hoses to discourage washing down floors and outside paved areas.

Collect all metal filings, dust, and paint chips from grinding, shaving, and sanding, and dispose of the waste properly. Never dump these wastes in the storm drains or sanitary sewer.

Designate specific areas or service bays for engine, parts, or radiator cleaning. Do not wash or rinse parts outdoors.

Use self-contained sinks and tanks when working with solvents. Keep sinks and tanks covered when not in use.

Inspect degreasing solvent sinks regularly for leaks, and make necessary repairs immediately.

Rinse and drain parts over the solvent sink or tank, so that solvents will not drip or spill onto the floor. Use drip boards or pans to catch excess solvent solutions and divert them back to a sink or tank.

Collect and reuse cleaning solvents used in flushing and testing equipment. When reuse is no longer possible, these solutions are always treated as hazardous waste, and must be disposed of properly.

Never discharge water used to clean equipment, engines or parts into the MS4 or sanitary sewer system without adequate treatment and then only with approval of the sewage treatment facility

Never discharge anything other than clean water to a street, gutter or storm drain.

Washing Cars and Other Vehicles

If car washing is a central activity of your business, the most desirable option is to treat and recycle the wash water on the premises.

Designate a vehicle washing area and wash cars and trucks in that area only. This “wash pad” should either be bermed to prevent discharges to storm drains, or located on a porous surface (gravel or grassy area) that will allow the wash water to be filtered.

Education and Training

Train all employees upon hiring and annually thereafter, on personal safety, chemical management, and proper methods for handling and disposing of waste. Make sure that all employees understand storm water discharge prohibitions, wastewater discharge requirements, and these best management practices. Use a training log or similar method to document training.

Label all indoor and outdoor drains using paint and stencils (or equivalent) to indicate whether they flow to an on-site treatment device or to a storm drain. Labels are not necessary for plumbing fixtures directly connected to the sanitary sewer.

Spill Control

Maintain and keep current, as required by other regulations, a spill response plan and ensure that employees are trained on the elements of the plan

Minimize the distance between waste collection points and storage areas.

Contain and cover all solid and liquid wastes – especially during transfer.

Purchase and maintain absorbent materials in accordance with local regulations and procedures for containment and cleanup of different spills, and make sure they are easily accessible anywhere in the shop. Saturated absorbents generally must be disposed of as hazardous waste.

“Spot clean” leaks and drips routinely. Leaks are not cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly.

Check floor drains to ensure that they are not connected to or discharge to the storm drain system.