

COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

News You Can Use

STORMWATER COMPLIANCE AT *RETAIL GASOLINE OUTLETS*

Purpose

The purpose of this Compliance Assistance Bulletin is to help owners and operators of Retail Gasoline Outlets (RGOs) comply with Stormwater Program requirements, prepare for inspections, answer frequently asked questions, and provide additional resources.

Issue

As mandated by State requirements, the County of Sacramento Environmental Management Department (EMD) is implementing a stormwater compliance program on behalf of the County, and the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Galt, Folsom, Rancho Cordova and Sacramento, as of July 1, 2004. **This program includes triennial stormwater compliance inspections at facilities such as retail gas stations.**

Gasoline, antifreeze, motor oil, grease, food waste, and other pollutants such as wastewater from surface washing activities, are often discharged, or otherwise washed into the **storm drainage system** from retail gasoline outlets (RGOs) and other businesses. When these pollutants enter the storm drainage system they flow untreated into our local waterways where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. Certain pollutants can also block or damage underground pipes and attract vermin. **Facility operators must prevent prohibited discharges to the storm drainage system and implement measures to reduce pollutant sources associated with their activities.**

Stormwater Compliance Inspections/ Typical Areas of Concern

EMD is conducting Stormwater Compliance Inspections, in conjunction with Underground Storage Tank (UST) inspections, once every three years. **The following are typical areas of concern:**

- **Spills and leaks** from fuel dispensing, auto repair, air/water service and UST fill areas must always be promptly cleaned up – preferably using dry-cleanup methods – and **never** washed, or allowed to run into the storm drainage system.
- **Spill clean-up materials** should always be available onsite and employees should be trained to use them. Appropriate materials include: absorbent sweep, haz-mat and oil absorbent pillows and socks, and spill containment berms, or similar items to block and contain spills.
- **Exterior storage containers** including dumpsters and tallow bins must be leak-free, closed when not in use, in good working condition, and with no accumulation of trash, food, grease or other pollutants on the ground, or near storm drains.
- **Surface cleaning and pressure washing** wash water must be contained, collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer, private sewage system or serviceable sump or, if hazardous, lawfully disposed of as hazardous waste. For more information, refer to the Best Management Practices for Pressure Washing booklet. Ask your EMD Environmental Specialist or call 875-8400 for a copy. You may also refer to the Department website at <http://www.emd.saccounty.net>.

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Typical Areas of Concern
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- **Vehicle washing/detailing and auto repair/operations** must also be performed in a manner that prevents the discharge of pollutants to the storm drainage system. Call (916) 875-8400 or go to <http://www.emd.saccounty.net> for more information.
- **Dumpsters and waste containers** should be sound and leak free. Dumpster lids should always be closed when not in use and dumpsters should never be overfilled.
- **Fueling Areas:** Fuel spills and leaks must be promptly cleaned and never washed or allowed to run into the storm drainage system.

If Food is Prepared at Your Facility

- **Outdoor Interceptors:** Outdoor interceptors must be maintained to prevent overflow of grease to the storm drainage system and kept in good working condition.
- **Roof Top Equipment:** Roof-top equipment must be maintained to prevent grease and other non-stormwater discharges from reaching the storm drain system via downspouts.
- **Indoor Drains:** Indoor drains and sinks must be connected to the sanitary sewer or approved private sewage disposal system.

Corrective Action

Stormwater violations will result in a **Notice of Violation** that requires the violations to be corrected and proof of compliance to be submitted within a given time frame. Extensions may be granted on a case by case basis. If additional enforcement action is necessary due to failure to comply, it will be progressive and depend on the severity and duration of the violation. Fines of up to a maximum of \$5000 per violation are authorized by local ordinance.

Questions and Answers

What is the fee and when will stormwater compliance inspections begin?

The annual fee is \$104; inspections began July 1, 2004 and will be conducted on a triennial basis.

Are storm drains and sanitary sewer drains different?

Yes – The **storm drainage system** directs untreated stormwater into our creeks and rivers. The sanitary sewer system directs water to a plant where it is treated prior to discharge. Drains located in streets and parking lots are storm drains. Outdoor drains rarely lead to the sanitary sewer.

Why should I be concerned about stormwater and storm drains?

Water pollution is everyone's business and should be a major concern for all residents. Polluted stormwater is a major source of contamination in our creeks and rivers.

For More Information

For more information and additional compliance assistance, call (916) 875-8400 or refer to Department website, <http://www.emd.saccounty.net>.

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