

# COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE BULLETIN

## News You Can Use

### STORMWATER COMPLIANCE AT *GENERAL PERMIT FACILITIES*

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Compliance Assistance Bulletin is to help operators of facilities, that are, or should be, covered by the State's **General Industrial Stormwater Permit**, comply with local Stormwater Ordinance requirements, prepare for compliance inspections, answer frequently asked questions, and provide additional resources.

**Issue**

A variety of pollutants make their way into the storm drainage system and local waters from businesses that conduct process activities and store equipment, materials, or wastes outdoors. When these pollutants enter the storm drainage system, they flow directly into our local waters without treatment for pollutant removal. These pollutants degrade water quality and harm aquatic life. **Facility operators must prevent prohibited discharges to the storm drainage system and implement measures to reduce pollutant sources associated with their activities.**

**General Industrial Stormwater Permit/**

The State of California requires businesses involved with **manufacturing, mining, concrete production, transportation (if fueling or maintenance is performed on-site), auto wrecking, recycling, scrap, hazardous waste storage and treatment facilities**, and other activities, to gain coverage under the General Industrial Stormwater Permit.

**Notice of Intent**

Permit coverage is obtained by submitting a **Notice of Intent (NOI)** for coverage to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), along with a fee and facility site map. Contact the SWRCB at (916) 341-5536, for more information, or visit the State's website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/indusfaq.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/indusfaq.shtml)

**General Permit Requirements**

General Permitted businesses are required to:

- Develop a **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)** that identifies pollutant sources at the facility and identifies measures to control the pollutant sources.
- Conduct **monitoring and sampling** to ensure that pollutant control measures are effective.
- Report monitoring and sampling results to the State once a year.
- Implement measures identified in the SWPPP and comply with local Stormwater Ordinances.

**Stormwater Compliance Inspections/**

EMD is, as a requirement by the State of California, conducting triennial stormwater compliance inspections at General Permit facilities in order to ensure compliance with local Stormwater Ordinances. **The following are typical areas of concern:**

**Typical Areas of Concern**

- **Equipment and vehicle washing** must be conducted in a manner that prevents wash water, sediment, grease, oil, fuel and other associated pollutants from entering the storm drainage system, or flowing off-site.
- **Equipment and vehicle repair/maintenance** should be conducted indoors, if possible. If done outdoors, care must be taken to promptly clean leaks and spills, and greasy, oily parts should not be left outdoors without some form of coverage to prevent stormwater contact.
- **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.

**Typical Areas of Concern**  
(continued)

- **Equipment located or stored outdoors** must be checked for fluid leakage. Drip pans may be used to catch leaks on a temporary basis until repairs are made. Equipment covered with mud, tar, or other pollutants should be cleaned as described above or stored indoors. If stored outdoors, contaminated equipment should be covered with fastened tarps during winter months.
- **Waste and materials** must be managed and stored in a manner preventing leaks, spills, and exposure to stormwater contact, and which prevents discharge of wastes and materials to the storm drainage system or off-site areas.
- **Sediment Control:** Access points to unpaved areas used by vehicles should be stabilized by paving, covering with one inch or larger rock, or other appropriate materials to control sediment track-out to paved surfaces. You should also conduct regular sweeping.
- **Spill/Clean-up:** Spills and leaks must be properly cleaned up in a timely manner. Spill clean-up materials, such as absorbent sweep, hazmat pillows/socks, containment berms, and other similar items, should be available onsite.
- **Surface cleaning and pressure washing** wash water must be contained, collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer, private sewage or serviceable sump or, if hazardous, lawfully disposed of as hazardous waste. For more information, refer to Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Pressure Washing booklet. Ask your EMD Environmental Specialist or call (916) 875-8440 for a copy. You may also refer to the Department website at [EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET](http://EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET).

**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 difference between storm drains and sanitary sewers?**  
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) 875-8440 or refer to Department website, [EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET](http://EMD.SACCOUNTY.NET)

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