

GRAND CITIES COMMUNITY BASIC STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Storm Water Management Activities Fact Sheet No. 1

Goal/Purpose

Short Term:

To promote employee awareness in minimizing storm water pollution at work and at home.

Long Term:

When any storm water pollution issue is recognized, contact the appropriate Grand Cities Community Storm Water representative to minimize any polluted storm water discharges to the Red River.

Storm Water Management Activities

To comply with the individual Grand Cities Community Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPPs), specific storm water runoff activities must be implemented at all local municipal facilities as required. These basic storm water management practices will provide employees with general information on the Grand Cities Community storm water program and how they may participate at work and at home.

Activity:

1. Never dispose of wash water to the storm conveyance system or pavement; it should be properly disposed of in the sanitary sewer. Wash water can be defined as any liquid with cleaner and residual dirt and grime. Examples include mop water, window-cleaning water, and rinse water (rinsing after a cleaner was used). Plain (no residual cleaner) rinse water may be used for irrigating plants.
2. Promptly clean up any spill of liquid or solid wastes. Do not hose down an area to clean or handle a spill unless the liquid will be completely contained, cleaned up, and disposed of as appropriate for the waste type. Do not discharge to any storm conveyance system, landscape, or off-site.
3. Schedule regular cleaning of areas that collect debris to eliminate particulate and residue buildup. This applies to both exterior and interior areas. Keeping interior areas clean prevents the tracking of contaminants outdoors. Add trash containers, when appropriate, to minimize littering.
4. Evaluate safer alternative products for any job that usually uses toxic or hazardous products. For instance, investigate alternative floor and window cleaners (specialized cleaners), general cleaners, adhesives, paints, and lubricants.
5. Do not use drains without knowing whether they flow to the sanitary sewer, storm system, or self-contained internal sump. Confirm before using drains to ensure proper disposal.
6. Store equipment and supplies under cover whenever possible. Minimizing contact with storm water reduces the likelihood of contaminants getting into storm water runoff. Use exterior-grade cabinets or containers when exposed to the weather; interior-grade cabinets and containers will rust or deteriorate, contributing contaminants to storm water runoff.
7. Litter or debris can be a problem; throw all trash in disposal or recycling containers.

8. Report any inappropriate discharge to a storm water conveyance drain or ditch by contacting the appropriate municipal city storm water representative.

Examples of problems to report:

- a. Hazardous substance spill
- b. Sewage leak
- c. Petroleum spill
- d. Green waste dumping
- e. Anything in the storm conveyance system that should not be there.

In your report, note the exact location of the incident, the type of incident – a spill or illicit dumping,

the substance or substances involved, the time and date of your observation, and any information regarding the person(s) responsible for the incident.

9. Household activities can also contribute to storm water pollution. You can get more information about the Grand Cities Community storm water program that will help you reduce polluted storm water discharge by visiting the individual municipal Web pages.

If the above-suggested activities require some modification in order to work efficiently and effectively for you and your staff or do not cover some aspect of your operations or facility, please contact the appropriate Grand Cities storm water representative:

Mike Shea, City of Grand Forks
Phone: (701) 746-2713
E-mail: mshea@grandforksgov.com

John Thompson, City of East Grand Forks
Phone: (218) 773-1313
E-mail: jthompson@ci.east-grand-forks.mn.us

Carole McMahan, Grand Forks County
Phone: (701) 780-8412
E-mail: carole.mcmahan@gfcounty.com

Paul Clark, UND Facilities Department
Phone: (701) 777-3005
E-mail: paul_clark@mail.und.nodak.edu

For additional information on this or the local area community responsibilities under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II federal regulations for storm water discharges, visit the following Grand Cities Community Web sites:

City of Grand Forks:

<http://www.grandforksgov.com/gfgov/EnvironW.nsf/Main+Frameset?OpenFrameset>

City of East Grand Forks:

<http://www.ci.east-grand-forks.mn.us/>

Grand Forks County:

<http://www.co.grand-forks.nd.us/homepage.htm>

University of North Dakota:

<http://www.facilities.und.nodak.edu/stormwater.htm>

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