Pollution Prevention at Construction Sites

Runoff from streets and other paved areas is a major source of pollution to surface waters around the State. Construction activities can directly affect the health of these waters unless contractors and crews plan ahead to keep dirt, debris, and other construction waste away from storm drains. Following these guidelines will assist your compliance with University of Illinois and City and County stormwater regulations.

Reporting an Unauthorized Discharge

Anyone who discovers a suspicious discharge from a University of Illinois construction site should immediately report it to the appropriate University officials.

What to look for
- Discoloration, litter, foaming, or unusual odor in Boneyard Creek or other water flowing into a ditch, gutter, or storm sewer drain.
- Flowing water in ditches or from pipes into the Boneyard during periods of no rainfall.
- Hoses draining to the storm sewer system.
- Leaking containers with unknown or hazardous substances.
- Anything being poured into the street or storm sewer drain.

Who to call
If release appears to be life-threatening:
- Dial 911 or 9-911 from campus phones.
If release appears to be non life-threatening:
- Contact the Division of Safety & Compliance at 265-9818.
- If no answer, call Campus Public Safety Dispatch at 333-1216.

What to say
Provide the following information if it can be obtained safely:
- Location and time of the discharge.
- Type of substance, color, sheen, etc.
- Damages or injuries caused by the discharge.
- Actions used to stop or control the discharge.

UIUC Facilities Standards
www.oandm.uiuc.edu/uiucapp/ UIUCNative2.cfm
- Addendum 12–Construction Site Enforcement
- Addendum 13–Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control

Storm Water and Erosion Control Websites
International Erosion Control Association
www.ieca.org
Center for Watershed Protection
www.cwp.org
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.state.il.us/
US Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov

NPDES Program
cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/

Construction Industry Compliance Assistance
www.cicacenter.org/

Stormwater Manager’s Resource Center
www.stormwatercenter.net/

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Division of Safety & Compliance
1501 South Oak Street
Champaign, IL 61820
217-265-9828
ever@uiuc.edu
www.fs.uiuc.edu
Materials Management

- Sand, dirt, and similar materials must be stabilized or contained to prevent them from entering the storm drains.
- Apply water to control dust.
- Sweep streets daily.
- Check dumpsters for leaks and overfilling during weekly site inspections.
- Label all hazardous materials and hazardous wastes (such as pesticides, paints, solvents, fuel, etc.) in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations.
- Fuel storage containers must be double-walled or have secondary containment.
- Arrange with owner for appropriate disposal of all hazardous waste.

Spill Prevention and Control

- Report hazardous materials spills to the owner immediately.
- Keep spill cleanup materials available on-site and contain spills immediately.
- Designate a spill prevention and control coordinator who will be on-site daily.

Equipment Maintenance and Cleaning

- Inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks during weekly site inspections. Repair leaks promptly.
- Do not clean vehicles or equipment on-site.

Earthwork

- Keep excavated soil on the site where it is least likely to collect in the street. Transfer to dump trucks should take place on the site, not in the street.
- Use erosion control measures to minimize flow of silt off-site.
- Avoid scheduling earth moving activities during the rainy season if possible.

Dewatering Operations

- Water must go through filtration or be diverted through a basin, tank, or sediment trap before entering storm sewer.
- In areas of known contamination, testing is required prior to discharge of groundwater. Contaminated groundwater must be transported off-site for proper disposal.

Saw Cutting and Concrete Waste Management

- Cover or barricade storm drains when saw cutting to keep slurry out of storm sewer system.
- Collect slurry and dispose in concrete washout area.
- If slurry enters a catch basin, remove it immediately.
- Wash out concrete equipment/trucks off-site or in a designated area with a temporary pit. Allow water in pit to evaporate and dispose of hardened concrete with regular construction debris.

Painting

- Never rinse paint brushes or materials into street gutters or storm sewer inlets.
- Dispose of oil-based paint sludge and unusable thinner/solvents as hazardous waste.