

TASK

Effective Date: 08-02-13

Approved By: Director, Environmental Health and Safety

Authority: [POL U5950.01](#), Health, Safety and Environmental Protection

Cancels:

See Also: [Web Page](#) Facilities Management Storm Water Management Program

TSK-U5950.01E PROTECTING CAMPUS STORM WATER SYSTEMS

This task applies to all students, employees and volunteers at Western.

Definitions:

Materials of concern – oils including plant-based oils like vegetable or corn, automotive liquids, greasy water, heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers, food waste, cleaning wastes, chemicals, detergents, landscape chemicals, and animal or human excrement.

Planned potable water discharges - may include:

- Water line flushing, including hyper-chlorinated lines,
- Fire hydrant system flushing,
- Pipeline hydrostatic test water,
- Lawn watering and irrigation runoff,
- Swimming pool and fountain waters (**except** discharges of waste waters and filter backwashes only to a sanitary drain), and
- Street and sidewalk wash water, water for dust control, and water for routine external building wash down without detergents.

Potable water – (also known as drinking water) contains a residual amount of chlorine to keep it safe. This small amount of chlorine is toxic to the ecology of natural waters and is not permitted to enter storm water drains.

Storm water drains - Drains that collect rain and other running waters into the storm water system for transport directly or indirectly to natural bodies of water. Most storm drains are identified with a small “dumping is prohibited” sign.

When handling materials of concern, a **student, employee, or volunteer** on campus will:

1. **Never** dump materials of concern and/or potable water into storm water drains.
2. **Treat** all “planned” potable water discharges (see definitions above) prior to releasing near a storm water drain by: (1) de-chlorinating to a concentration of 0.1 part per million (ppm) or less chlorine; (2) adjusting the pH if necessary; and (3) controlling the volume and velocity of the discharge to prevent re-suspension of sediment.

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3. **Treat** small amounts of potable water by discharging to vegetated areas for filtration through the natural ecology of planted areas.
4. When handling chemicals:
 - a. **Transport** chemicals only in closed, labeled containers inside secondary containment to minimize spills.
 - b. **Secure** containers of chemicals within a vehicle during transport.
 - c. **Control** any outdoor chemical, biological or radiological spill that may affect the storm water system.
5. If a dog caretaker, **collect** animal excrement and **dispose** of it properly.
6. **Block** affected storm water drains threatened by contamination as soon as possible.
7. **Contact** the Environmental Health and Safety office at (360) 650-3064 and the Facilities Management Work Control Center at (360) 650-3420 immediately if storm waters are impacted by contamination during normal business hours.
 - a. After hours, **contact** University Police at (360) 650-3555.
8. If to ensure proper notification to Washington State authorities.
9. If a Facilities Management employee performing duties relevant to this task:
 - a. **Take** necessary steps to control rainwater so it does not run down streets directly into storm water drains but enters vegetated areas for treatment through the natural ecology of planted areas.
 - b. **Notify** a supervisor if finding a drain that is connected improperly, putting sanitary waste to the storm water system.
10. If a hazardous material spill related to a storm drain is flammable, **call** the Bellingham Fire Department immediately at 911.

NOTE: Appropriate University management personnel will make notifications as required in this order.

1. City of Bellingham Stormwater Hotline: (360) 778-7979 or call 911
2. National Response Center: (800) 424-8802 or go online at <http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html>
3. Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), Bellingham Field Office: (360) 715-5200
4. If no answer at the Bellingham Field Office, contact the DOE NW Regional Office: (425) 649-7000
5. Washington Emergency Management Division: (800) 258-5990 or (800) OILS-911