



Stormwater Pollution Prevention: Retail and Non-Retail Gasoline Outlets



As part of the federal Clean Water Act, the State adopted new stormwater runoff quality regulations in 2003. To comply with the new requirements, in 2004 the Placer County Board of Supervisors approved a Stormwater Management Plan that describes the stormwater program activities. The goal of Placer County's Stormwater Quality Program is to protect the health of the County's creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes by providing educational outreach to members of the public and businesses about the effects of their activities. Stormwater runoff is not treated before it flows into natural waterways--contaminants harm fish and wildlife, and pollute the water we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking.

Retail and non-retail fueling facility owners, managers, and employees need to be aware that the discharge of their pollutants into the storm drainage system or surrounding water bodies is prohibited by local ordinance, as well as state and federal law. Release of any 'non-stormwater' discharges, including trash, engine and vehicle fluids, fuel residue in any concentration, sediment, or other materials is illegal.

Here are some recommended 'Best Management Practices' to help you and your business comply with the law:

GENERAL:

- Visually inspect grounds periodically for contamination, waste, or spills from any source. Clean up and correct any observed problems promptly.
- Spot-clean leaks and drips routinely. Leaks are not cleaned up until the absorbent is picked up and disposed of properly. Do not hose spills into the storm drain system.
- Label storm drain inlets in the business vicinity with a "No Dumping" message.
- Post signs to remind employees and customers that the changing of oil and other vehicle fluids outside is not allowed anywhere other than approved locations.
- Install catch basin inlets with sedimentation basins or grit chambers in areas subject to accumulating grit. Commercial stormwater treatment units that remove grit, oil, and trash from runoff before it leaves the business site may be installed if source controls aren't sufficient.
- Keep your spill response plan up to date, and keep an ample supply of clean up materials on hand at all times.



EMPLOYEE TRAINING:

Train all employees upon hiring and annually thereafter on stormwater pollution prevention practices, including proper methods for handling and disposal of wastes. Make sure that all employees understand stormwater discharge prohibitions, wastewater discharge requirements, and these best management practices, and that they are properly trained in spill prevention, response, and clean-up procedures.

WASTE CONTAINERS:

- Spot-clean leaks and drips from waste containers routinely to prevent runoff of waste liquid, or contamination of stormwater when it rains.
- Minimize stormwater pollution from outside waste containers by:
 - using only watertight containers and keeping the lids closed.
 - grading and paving the waste receptacle area to direct stormwater away from it.
 - installing a roof over the dumpster area and place all trash cans under a rain canopy; or installing a low containment berm around the waste receptacle area.
 - immediately replacing any container that leaks, or using and maintaining drip pans under receptacles.



FUELING AREA:

- Maintain clean fueling areas using dry cleanup methods such as sweeping for removal of litter and debris, or rags and absorbents for leaks and spills. Do not hose waste into the storm drain.
- Fueling areas must never be washed down unless the wash water is collected and disposed of properly. It is the responsibility of the facility operator to make sure that wastewater is disposed of properly, including wastes generated by contract cleaners such as pressure washers. If cleaning is performed by washing, the downstream drain must be temporarily plugged and the accumulated water pumped out. Permission from the local sewer agency must be obtained before discharging wash water to the sanitary sewer.
- Post signs at the fuel island warning users against ‘topping off’ the fuel tank.
- Many spills occur during fuel transfers; use secondary containment while transferring from the supply truck to the storage tanks. Cover storm drains in the vicinity, and clean up any spills immediately with absorbent, rags, and sweeping. Dispose of waste materials properly.
- Report leaking vehicles to the appropriate fleet management agency or trucking company so that they can be fixed immediately.

NEW AND REDEVELOPMENT:



- New fueling facilities are subject to design standards to minimize the amount of pollution generated by the facility.
- Older existing facilities should consider modifying canopy coverage to minimize the exposure of rain and runoff to fueling areas. Existing facilities can also re-grade or re-pave surface areas to direct runoff away from fueling and waste handling areas.

Remember:

Any waste on the ground will be carried away by stormwater and pollute our waterways.

For more information on ways to prevent stormwater pollution or to report violations, call the Placer County Department of Public Works at (530) 745-7500.

Check out the Placer County stormwater website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Works/StrmWtr.aspx>.

More information about Best Management Practices for retail gasoline outlets is available at <http://www.cabmphandbooks.com/>.