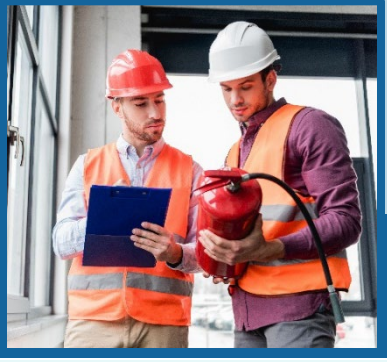
# Stormwater BMPs to Support Fire Safety and Water Quality



## Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping Recommendations for Fire-Prone Sites

Whether your business handles flammable materials, operates equipment with potential fire risk, or is located in an area with fire response history, it's important to be prepared for both fire safety and environmental protection. **Firefighting water, foam, ash, and other emergency materials contain pollutants that may enter streets and storm drains, flowing untreated into local waterways and San Francisco Bay.** Chlorinated water, firefighting foams and residual materials from fires can be toxic to fish, wildlife, the environment, and people.

This resource outlines practical pollution prevention and good housekeeping practices to help reduce fire-related risks and keep contaminants out of storm drains. Businesses can use these strategies alongside their existing stormwater **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** to help protect local creeks and the Bay.

## PROTECT THE BAY

**Only Rain Down the Drain!**

**NEVER** let foam, water, or debris enter the storm drain.

## POLLUTION PREVENTION RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Conduct regular inspections for leaks and damage to storage containers** and secondary containment systems. This helps detect issues like corrosion or poor seals that could increase the risk of fire emergencies and hazardous discharges.
- **Ensure that BMPs are on hand to protect storm drains during unplanned discharge events** (e.g., spills or emergency firefighting scenarios). These controls could include any of the following:
    - Mats to cover storm drain inlets
    - Spill kits and/or absorbent booms (***Image 1***)
    - Berms to block storm drain inlets (***Image 2***)
    - Storm drain plugs
    - Installed storm drain inlet valves/locks
- **Controls should be inspected regularly**, maintained in good condition, and be accessible for deployment when needed.

***Image 1.*** *Example of a spill kit*

***Image 2.*** *Example of a berm*

## SPILL REPORTING AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Only rainwater is allowed to flow freely into storm drains. Dumping wash water, sewage, automotive fluids, paint, construction materials, trash, sediment, or food waste is illegal and harmful to our local creeks, the Bay, and wildlife. Reporting dumping and spills helps keep our local waterways pristine for everyone to enjoy.

To report a significant spill or discharge of potentially hazardous materials to a creek or the Bay in Contra Costa County, contact:

- California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES): 1-800-852-7550
- Contra Costa's Spills and Illegal Dumping Hotline: 1-800-NO DUMPING (1-800-663-8674)
- Contact Your Local Response Agency: See the "Helpful Resources" section on page 2
- Report Online: cccleanwater.org/report-illegal-dumping

**Be sure to know and comply with local stormwater regulations. For more info on BMPs and local requirements, go to cccleanwater.org**

CONTRA COSTA CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA 94553 (925) 313-2360 cccleanwater.org

# GOOD HOUSEKEEPING PRACTICES

## Plan and Prepare

- **Ensure your facility has a plan for fire prevention and response all staff**, including regular inspections and maintenance of fire prevention and suppression equipment.
- **Work with your local fire department** to ensure compliance with fire prevention practices.
- **Ensure all staff members are trained** in fire prevention practices, emergency response procedures and stormwater pollution best practices.
- **Establish spill prevention, stormwater pollution prevention and cleanup plans**.
- **Contact the Contra Costa Clean Water Program (CCCWP) or your local stormwater agency for more information** on stormwater best practices and available pollution prevention trainings.

## Maintain a Clean and Orderly Workplace

- Regularly sweep or vacuum work areas to **prevent the buildup** of debris, leaves, and other flammable materials.
- **Keep storage and work areas free of clutter to reduce fire risk. Avoid overloading outlets and replace damaged power cords.**
- **Clean up spills of hazardous or flammable liquids** with appropriate spill kits and procedures for disposal.

## Storage and Management of Combustible Materials

- **Store flammable materials and chemicals in accordance with building and fire code requirements** and away from pilot lights or other ignition sources.
- **Use proper ventilation** in areas with flammable vapors and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) so that flammable vapors are not building up.
- **Cover small stockpiles of loose materials** with tarps or other covers. **Use perimeter controls around larger stockpiles** to contain materials (***Image 3***).

## Waste Management

- **Segregate waste and store it in covered and leakproof containers.**
- **Store hazardous wastes in compliance with local, state, and federal requirements**, which generally include labeled, covered containers with secondary containment to catch drips and leaks (***Image 4***).
- **Arrange for regular pick up and disposal** by licensed waste haulers.
- **Provide employees with training, guidelines, and access to reference materials regarding proper hazardous waste disposal.** This should include clear instructions on identifying hazardous waste, labeling, handling procedures, storage requirements, and contact information for authorized disposal services.
- Provide **cigarette butt receptables** in sanctioned smoking areas.

# HELPFUL RESOURCES

## Local Stormwater Agencies

| | |
|---|---|
| City of Antioch | (925) 779-6169 |
| City of Brentwood | (925) 516-5163 |
| City of Clayton | (925) 890-9732 |
| City of Concord | (925) 671-3470 |
| Town of Danville | (925) 314-3315 |
| City of El Cerrito | (510) 215-4338 |
| City of Hercules | (510) 799-8247 |
| City of Lafayette | (925) 299-3247 |
| City of Martinez | (925) 372-3569 |
| Town of Moraga | (925) 888-7038 |
| City of Oakley | (925) 625-7154 |
| City of Orinda | (925) 253-4251 |
| City of Pinole | (510) 724-9839 |
| City of Pittsburg | (925) 252-4803 |
| City of Pleasant Hill | (925) 671-5252 |
| City of Richmond | (510) 621-1269 |
| City of San Pablo | (510) 215-3066 |
| City of San Ramon | (925) 973-2685 |
| City of Walnut Creek | (925) 256-3511 |
| County Watershed Program | (925) 313-2236 |
| Contra Costa Clean Water Program | (925) 313-2360 |

## Local Wastewater Treatment Authorities

| | |
|---|---|
| **Byron Sanitary District (Dist.)** | (925) 634-3613 |
| **Central Contra Costa Sanitary Dist.** | (925) 229-7288 |
| **City of Brentwood** | (925) 516-6060 |
| **City of Hercules** | (510) 724-8963 |
| **City of Pinole** | (510) 724-8963 |
| **City of Richmond** | (510) 412-2009 |
| **Crockett Sanitary Department** | (510) 787-2992 |
| **Delta Diablo Sanitation Dist.** | (925) 756-1900 |
| **Dublin San Ramon Serv. Dist.** | (925) 875-2336 |
| **East Bay Municipal Utility Dist.** | (510) 287-1651 |
| **Ironhouse Sanitary Dist.** | (925) 625-2279 |
| **Mt. View Sanitary Dist.** | (925) 228-5635 |
| **Rodeo Sanitary Dist.** | (510) 799-2970 |
| **Town of Discovery Bay CSD** | (925) 634-1131 |
| **West County Wastewater Dist.** | (510) 237-6603 |

***Image 3.*** *Tarps and perimeter controls to cover stockpiles*

***Image 4.*** *Covered, locked, and clearly labeled hazardous waste storage area with adjacent fire extinguisher*