

This bulletin is published monthly by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to support the Caltrans maintenance staff in its efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulatory requirements.

Illegal Dumping and Spill Control BMPs

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks - Maintenance Staff Guide, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jennifer Malcolm, HQ Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0086, Roger Churchwell, HQ Environmental Engineering, (916) 653-3653

Illegal dumping and spills can encroach on Caltrans properties. Accessible Caltrans properties, such as safety roadside rest areas, vista points, turnouts, and weigh stations, provide tempting places for illegal dumping.

Illegally dumped and spilled materials have potential to flow into receiving waters. This bulletin reviews Best Management Practice (BMP) **D2, Illegal Dumping Control**, in the *Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks, Maintenance Staff Guide*, for minimizing the impact of illegal dumping and spills.



H&N File Photo.
Not a Caltrans site.

Illegal Dumping may occur at drain inlets and must be reported.

Put Your Detective Skills to Work

Inspecting for, and reporting illegally dumped substances can protect storm water quality. Look for potential dumping at drain inlets, open channels, and municipal storm drain system tie-ins. Warning signs can include:

- Visible signs of staining or unusual colors to the pavement or surrounding adjacent soils.
- Pungent odors coming from the drainage system.
- Discoloration or oily substances in the water or stains and residues detained within ditches, channels or drain boxes.
- Dumping of debris or medical waste at a particular location, where the proximity to the drain system could impact water quality.

Assess And Report

When any field maintenance employee witnesses or discovers a suspected illegal dumping to a Caltrans storm drain system, they must report it to their supervisor.

- If the substance is known to be hazardous, suspected of being hazardous, or cannot be identified, notify your District Maintenance HazMat Manager immediately.
- If an illegally dumped substance within Caltrans right-of-way has the potential of entering a municipal drain system, notify your supervisor and the District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator so that the downstream municipality can be contacted.

Isolate the Problem

If the illegally dumped substance has been identified and has potential for entering the Caltrans storm drain system, contain the material, after a positive identification and if it is safe to do so. Provide protection for adjacent drain inlets to prevent entry of the illegally dumped substance.

Cleanup, Removal and Disposal

Perform all cleanup and corrective actions for illegal dumping and spills on Caltrans right-of-way in accordance with Chapters D1 and D5 of the *Caltrans Maintenance Manual, Volume 1* and follow your District *HazMat Spill Contingency Plan*.

Follow Up Corrective Actions

All maintenance supervisors are required to follow up on the incident to ensure the appropriate agencies have been contacted and corrective actions have taken place.



H&N File Photo.
Not a Caltrans site.

Illegal dumping or spills along the roadway could enter the Caltrans storm water drainage system.

Visit our Caltrans storm water intranet website at: [HTTP://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/orside/water/watqual.htm](http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/orside/water/watqual.htm) for the latest storm water bulletins, training information, list of storm water coordinators, inspection forms, and Maintenance Staff Guide. The storm water bulletins are also available on the Caltrans Environmental website at: [HTTP://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/Environmental/stormwater/index.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/Environmental/stormwater/index.htm)