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Maintenance

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STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION BULLETIN

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.

Follow-Up Inspections of Maintenance Facilities

During Spring 1998, the Storm Water Task Force inspected 277 Caltrans maintenance facilities to evaluate compliance and to identify action items in areas needing improvement. The initial inspection results were positive, with approximately 95% compliance. As a follow-up to the initial inspections, the Task Force conducted a series of reinspections at selected facilities in each District.

Why Reinspect a Good Thing?

The Task Force established the following goals for the reinspections:

- Enhance compliance at facilities considered to be facing the greatest storm water management challenges.
- Provide facility-specific training to improve staff understanding of storm water requirements and best management practices (BMPs).
- Prepare facilities for regulatory agency inspections.
- Review and offer assistance in filing procedures for storm water documentation.

How were Facilities Selected for Reinspection?

Specific criteria were defined for selecting facilities for reinspection:

- Number of compliance action items identified from the initial inspection
- Progress made on action items based on documentation submitted by the facility
- Size of the yard and number of crews
- Proximity to the nearest downstream watercourse
- Types of materials stored at the facility

Applying these criteria, the Task Force reinspected more than 20% of the facilities in each District during Fall/Winter 1998-99.

What BMP Improvements Have been Made?

To achieve its goals, the Task Force focused on: housekeeping, spill cleanup, hazardous materials and waste storage and documentation.

Reinspection results showed a general improvement in housekeeping practices. Most facilities maintain ample supplies of absorbent for prompt spill cleanup. An increased number of facilities had installed self-contained buildings for hazardous waste storage and proper storage containers for used batteries.

Inspectors also saw an increase in the use and availability of covers for raw materials in the event of rain. The maintenance personnel had taken impressive measures to improve storm water protection.

Properly-labeled spill kit and used absorbent containers accessible to fueling areas.

Top Ten BMP Recommendations

To facilitate statewide continuous storm water pollution prevention improvement, the top ten recommendations made during the follow-up inspections are shared below:

10 Provide sediment controls when covering is not feasible. Maintain sediment controls.

9 Consider installing a permanent berm at raw materials storage areas to contain sediment; keep yard swept.

8 Cover cold mix and other raw materials during rain. Have covers available for forecasted rain.

7 Store liquid hazardous materials with secondary containment.

6 Provide secondary containment and cover for hazardous waste; evaluate installing a self-contained building for storing waste.

5 Provide spill kits near all areas where potential spills may occur.

4 Conduct routine inspections required by BMPs and document the results.

3 Clean up used absorbent and dispose as hazardous waste.

2 Provide properly-labeled used absorbent container readily accessible to areas where spills may occur.

And the number one recommendation:

1 Maintain and repair leaking equipment, such as fuel dispensers, compressors, generators, and hoists.

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbook - Maintenance Staff Guide, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jack Broadbent, HQ Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0361, Roger Churchwell, HQ Environmental Engineering, (916) 653-3653

Visit our Caltrans storm water intranet website at: 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.***