

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF MUNICIPAL VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT

Introduction

Regular maintenance of both municipal and contracted vehicles and heavy equipment not only prolongs the life of municipal assets but also helps reduce the potential for leaking of fluids associated with normal wear and tear. Potential pollutants include fuels, oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, solvents, and battery acid. The goal of this written Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is to provide guidance to municipal employees to help reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 as a result of leaks from vehicles and equipment. If services are contracted with respect to vehicles and equipment, this SOP should be provided to the contractor. The contract should also specify that the contractor is responsible for compliance with all applicable laws.

The Town undertakes various procedures and precautions in regards to its municipal vehicles and equipment. Those related to reducing the discharge of pollutants into the MS4 are described below.

Within two years of the effective date of the MS4 Permit, the Town will create an inventory of all municipal vehicles and equipment and update this inventory annually (refer to the attached vehicles and equipment inventory template).

Procedures

The Town will implement the following procedures for municipally owned or operated vehicles and equipment to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4:

Vehicle Storage

- Monitor vehicles and equipment for leaks and use drip pans as needed until repairs can be performed.
- When drip pans are used, avoid overtopping.
- Drain fluids from leaking or wrecked vehicles and parts as soon as possible. Dispose of fluids properly.
- Store and park vehicles on impervious surfaces and/or under cover or indoors whenever possible.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Conduct routine inspections of heavy equipment and vehicles to proactively identify maintenance needs or potential leaks.
- Perform routine preventive maintenance to ensure heavy equipment and vehicles are operating optimally.
- Recycle or dispose of waste properly and promptly.
- Sweep and pick up trash and debris as needed.
- Do not dump any liquids or other materials outside, especially near or in storm drains or ditches.

Body Repair and Painting

- Body repair and painting will be contracted off site.

Fueling

- Fueling areas owned or operated by the municipality should be covered.
- Fueling areas should be evaluated to ensure that pollutants (e.g., gasoline or oil) do not enter the MS4. Follow the procedures in the SOP for Fuel and Oil Handling.

Material Management

- Store materials and waste in labeled containers under cover and in secondary containment.
- Chemicals should not be combined in containers.
- Hazardous waste must be labeled and stored according to hazardous waste regulations. Follow the procedures in the SOP for Hazardous Materials Storage and Handling.
- Carefully transfer collected fluids from containers into designated storage areas as soon as possible.
- Store new and used batteries securely to avoid breakage. Store indoors or in secondary containment to contain potential acid leaks. Recycle used batteries.
- Conduct periodic inspections of storage areas to detect possible leaks.
- Do not wash or hose down storage areas unless there is prior approval to collect and discharge the water into the sanitary sewer. Use dry cleanup methods whenever possible.
- Keep lids on containers. Store them indoors or under cover to reduce exposure to rain.
- Inspect and maintain all pretreatment equipment, including interceptors, according to the manufacturer's maintenance schedule and at least once per year.
- Proper spill protocol should be followed to prevent chemicals from entering the stormwater system. Follow the procedures in the SOP for Spill Response and Cleanup.

Parts Cleaning

- Use designated areas for engine, parts, or radiator cleaning. Do not wash or rinse parts outdoors. If parts cleaning equipment is not available then capture parts cleaning fluids.
- Recycle cleaning solution. Never discharge waste to the sanitary sewer or storm sewer.
- Use steam cleaning or pressure washing of parts instead of solvent cleaning. Cleaning equipment must be connected to an oil/water interceptor prior entering the sanitary sewer.
- When using solvents for cleaning, drain parts over the solvent tank to avoid drips to the floor. Catch excess solutions and divert them back to tank. Allow parts to dry over the hot tank

Vehicle and Equipment Washing

Vehicle washing can result in the discharge of nutrients, sediment, petroleum products, and other contaminants to a surface water body or to a stormwater system. The MS4 Permit does not authorize the discharge of municipal vehicle washing byproducts into the MS4. See SOP for Vehicle Washing for proper procedures.

Employee Training

- Employees who perform work on/with municipal vehicles or equipment are trained annually on these procedures and the proper operation of related equipment.
- Employees are also trained on stormwater pollution prevention, illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) procedures, and spill and response procedures.
- If services are contracted, the contractor should be given a copy of this and any applicable SOPs to ensure compliance with MS4 regulations.

Related Standard Operating Procedures

1. Spill Response and Cleanup
2. Fuel and Oil Handling
3. Storage and Use of Pesticides and Fertilizer
4. Streets and Parking Lots
5. Hazardous Material Storage and Handling

This SOP adapted from Central Massachusetts Regional Stormwater Coalition SOP template.