

**O&M Staff Training Module 3:  
Maintenance Best Practices for Water Quality Protection**

# **Maintenance for Streetlight/Traffic Signal Utilities**



City of Tacoma Environmental Services  
2018

**How do you select the  
right BMP for the job?**

# Many of your work activities require BMPs

- Utility Installation, Replacement or Repair
- Asphalt or Concrete Patching
- Utility Vault Dewatering

# Basic BMPs to use on every activity:

Suggested BMP Strategies	Recommended BMPs
Keep Water Away from Area	Schedule work for dry weather. Cover stockpiles. Berm around work area with sandbags, etc.
Good Housekeeping	Sweep area when job is complete
Spill Prevention	Keep Spill Kit on site and clean up spills immediately
Seasonal Limitations	Oct.1-Apr.30 – No soil exposed more than 2 days May 1-Sept.30 – No soil exposed more than 7 days

# When installing utilities (open trench cuts, underground utilities, vaults or pole setting):

## Key steps to remember

1. Install BMPs to protect nearby catch basin/storm drain inlets and adjacent watercourses before starting work.
  - CB sock
  - Inlet Cover Mat
  - Coir Logs



# When installing utilities (open trench cuts, underground utilities, vaults or pole setting):

## Key steps to remember

2. Cover stockpile material that will be reused.
3. Temporarily stabilize bare soil using straw or erosion blankets.
4. Permanently stabilize utility cuts by repaving or spreading seed or hydroseed to re-establish ground cover.



# When patching asphalt or concrete:

## Key steps to remember

1. Install BMPs to protect nearby catch basin/storm drain inlets and adjacent watercourses before starting work.
  - CB sock
  - Inlet Cover Mat
  - Coir Logs



# When patching asphalt or concrete:

## Key steps to remember

2. If saw-cutting concrete, **vacuum up the slurry** and dispose at the decant/washout facility at the Asphalt Plant.
3. Install patching material.
4. **Sweep up excess materials** and dispose of properly.
5. Remove storm drain inlet protection BMPs.





# When inspecting utility vaults:

## Key steps to remember

1. If pump has failed, inspect water prior to discharge.
  - a) **If no odor sheen or other indicator of water pollution exists:** you may dewater vault to the **stormwater system** or a **vegetated area**.
  - b) **If odor, sheen or other indicator of water pollution exists:** If observe presence of pollutants (sheen, odor, color), cease discharge and contact Environmental Services at 502-2222. May dewater vault into the **nearest wastewater manhole**. Discharging to wastewater system may require an Special Approved Discharge (SAD) Permit from the Environmental Services Department.
  - c) If testing shows contaminants exceed PCB/MTCA limits, vector and properly dispose as a hazardous waste.

# When inspecting utility vaults:

## Key steps to remember

2. Install BMPs to **direct water away** from easily erodible areas (e.g. coir logs, berms, diffuser on discharge from the pump.)
3. When cleaning out the vault, **collect accumulated sediment or debris on tarp**, and take to an approved disposal facility.

Could you provide a vault photo for these slides?

# Field Assistance

## Need some help with your BMPs?

Call any time:

**502-2222**



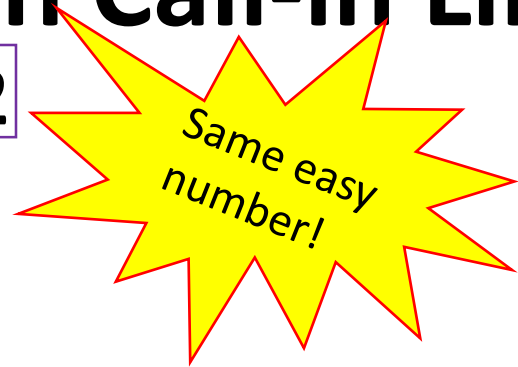
**Environmental Services Department - Environmental Compliance Team**

**Available 24/7**

**What to watch for in the  
field...**

# City Staff Water Pollution Call-in Line

**(253) 502-2222**



## Please call if you notice:

- Muddy construction site track-out or runoff
- Accidental spills or illegal dumping
- Car washing, power washing with soapy water
- People hosing or washing away oil, paint, or other garbage into the street or down the storm drain
- Oily sheen or colored liquid
- Chemical or sewage smell
- Sudsy foam
- Garbage accumulation in or around catch basins
- Liquid seeping from garbage dumpsters
- Hoses connected to catch basins
- What else have you seen?



**You are our eyes in the field...**

# **Review Questions**

# Question #1

Which of these BMPs should be used on every job?

- a) Silt fence
- b) Good housekeeping – sweeping up excess material
- c) Inlet protection
- d) Straw mulch

# Question #2

When patching a roadway, what is the last step to remember for your BMPs?

- a) Install BMPs to protect nearby storm drain
- b) Vacuum up concrete slurry
- c) Sweep up excess paving materials
- d) Remove storm drain inlet protection



# Question #3

Call the Staff Water Pollution Call-in Line (253-502-2222), if you see which of the following:

- a) People hosing or washing away oil, paint, or other garbage into the street or down the storm drain
- b) Oily sheen, muddy runoff or sudsy foam
- c) Car accident
- d) Garbage accumulation or liquid seeping from garbage dumpsters

# Quiz Answers

- Question #1: b)
- Question #2: d)
- Question #3: a), b) and d)