



Facilities Prone to Fire

Firefighting activities are essential for protecting life and property, but they can also pose significant risks to the environment if proper precautions aren't taken. Firefighting water, foam, ash, and other materials generated during emergency responses contain pollutants that, if not properly managed, may enter streets and storm drain inlets. These pollutants flow through the storm drain system to local waterways and the San Francisco Bay (Bay) without any cleaning or filtering. These pollutants can be **toxic to fish, wildlife, and people**. As a business, it is crucial to implement strategies to prevent these substances from reaching the storm drain system.

Help protect the Bay and local creeks by following these Best Management Practices (BMPs).



Never allow discharges to enter storm drains. Federal, state, and local regulations prohibit anything other than rain into the storm drain.

How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

PLAN AND PREPARE

- Ensure your facility complies with all local and state fire safety and prevention codes.
- Ensure all staff members are trained in fire prevention practices, emergency response procedures, and stormwater pollution prevention BMPs.
- Work with your local fire department to ensure compliance with fire prevention, spill prevention and spill response regulations, and establish procedures for stormwater pollution prevention, and cleanup.
- Store flammable materials chemicals in accordance with building and fire code requirements.
- Store materials like timber, pallets, and cardboard in designated areas away from the curb and storm drains.
- Cover small stockpiles of loose materials with tarps or other covers. Use perimeter controls around larger stockpiles to contain materials.
- Conduct a walk-through of the property and surrounding streets to identify locations of storm drain inlets so they can be protected during emergency response or clean up.
- Have spill kits, absorbent mats, booms, storm drain plugs, and/or barriers easily accessible on-site, or permanently installed storm drain inlet valves/locks, to contain firefighting runoff and prevent it from entering storm drains, streets, and water bodies.
- Plan a method for containing emergency firefighting water, as feasible, for proper disposal.
- Have a pre-established contract and/or contact with a fire restoration contractor or environmental remediation contractor for quick cleanup and proper disposal of firefighting runoff and materials clean-up methods and storage.



How to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

POST FIRE CLEAN UP

- Clean outdoor areas with “dry” cleaning methods such as sweeping, vacuuming, dry-mopping, and drying with absorbents or rags/towels.
- Collect and remove any remaining firefighting water or foam. Do NOT allow the water or foam to enter the street, gutter, storm drain inlets, or nearby water bodies.
- If water must be used during clean up, deploy berms or other protective barriers to protect storm drain inlets. Use a wet-vac or a small pump and hose to collect and store wash water in designated containers or a holding tank for testing and proper disposal.
- Dispose of all debris, absorbent, and materials properly as hazardous waste or to the local landfill (if allowed).
- Contact your local wastewater treatment plant to see if collected firefighting water, wash water, and/or firefighting foam can be discharged into the sanitary sewer system. If discharge to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited, it must be hauled off-site for proper disposal.
- Contact your local stormwater agency for guidance on proper disposal of firefighting runoff (see below for contact information).



Businesses must prevent harmful substances or pollutants from entering storm drains. Failure to comply with discharge regulations can result in fines. To report a significant spill or discharge of potentially hazardous materials to a creek or the Bay, call Cal OES (800) 852-7550.

STORMWATER POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCIES

For spills or materials entering a creek, pond or reservoir call Valley Water's 24/7 Pollution Hotline: 1-888-510-5151

For more information on preventing stormwater pollution, contact your local agency during regular business hours:

Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga (West Valley Communities)	(408) 354-4734	Milpitas.....	(408) 586-3365
Cupertino	(408) 777-3354	Mountain View	(650) 903-6378
Los Altos	(650) 947-2770	Palo Alto.....	(650) 329-2122
Los Altos Hills.....	(650) 941-7222	San José	(408) 945-3000
		Santa Clara	(408) 615-3080

WASTEWATER AGENCIES

All discharges to the sanitary sewer must meet local discharge limits.

Contact your local wastewater agency to find out if pretreatment requirements apply:

San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility.....	(408) 945-3000
Serving Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga	
Sunnyvale Water Pollution Control Plant	(408) 730-7260
Serving Sunnyvale	
Regional Water Quality Control Plant	(650) 329-2598
Serving East Palo Alto Sanitary District, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Stanford	