

## Reporting Discharges and Spills under the Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permits

Ecology prepared this document for municipal stormwater permittees to clarify reporting requirements for spills and other discharges.

### **Q: Under what conditions must a municipal stormwater permittee report specific discharges or spills to Ecology?**

**A:** Three kinds of situations require specific notification and reporting to Ecology:

1. Discharges, including spills, **into the MS4**, which could constitute a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment.
2. Discharges **from the MS4**, which could constitute a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment.
3. Discharges **from the MS4** that are causing or contributing to a known or likely violation of a water quality standard in the receiving water.

### **Q: Do all municipal stormwater permittees, including secondary permittees, need to follow these notification and reporting requirements?**

**A:** Yes. All municipal stormwater permittees must report illicit discharges, spills, and water quality concerns associated with their MS4s, as discussed in this FAQs document.

### **Q: How do I report a discharge or spill into or from my MS4 that could present a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment? (See permit General Condition G3)**

**A:** Immediately, but no later than 24 hours after obtaining the knowledge, contact the appropriate Ecology regional office hotline (see table at end). Note that specific additional reporting is required for discharges of oil or hazardous substances (statewide) or discharges that might cause bacterial contamination of shellfish (in Western Washington only).

For all reported spills or discharges, keep records of the incident and associated response actions. Include that information in your Municipal Stormwater Permit Annual Report and upon request.



**Q: What reporting and notification should I perform when a spill occurs into my MS4, and my MS4 discharges into another jurisdiction's MS4?**

**A:** All municipal stormwater permittees must notify the local jurisdiction receiving the discharge. This will allow them to manage the discharge more effectively. The Ports of Seattle and Tacoma must also contact their assigned Ecology regional permit specialist (Phase I permit condition S6.E.7.f). For additional notification requirements, refer to Table 1 at the end of this FAQ document. Keep records of all reported discharges or spills and associated response actions. Report that information in your Municipal Stormwater Permit Annual Report and upon request.

**Q: Phase I Permittees only: How do I report an illicit connection to my MS4, or a source control violation, that presents a severe threat to human health or the environment?**

**A:** To meet the Phase I reporting requirements for illicit connections (permit condition S5.C.8.b.vii.3) and source control violations (S5.C.7.b.iv) that present a severe threat, follow the requirements under permit condition G3 (see table on page 3). Keep records of the illicit connection or source control violation and associated response actions. Report that information in your Municipal Stormwater Permit Annual Report and upon request.

**Q: If I have already reported a spill in accordance with permit condition G3, do I also need to notify my regional Ecology permit specialist under S4.F.1?**

**A:** Possibly. Notify your regional Ecology permit specialist under S4.F.1 if you have credible, site-specific information that a discharge from your MS4 is causing or contributing to a known or likely water quality standards violation in the receiving water. (See [Frequently Asked Questions: Municipal Stormwater Permits and Compliance with Standards](#))

**Q: How do I report illicit discharges into or from my MS4 that do not present threats to human health, welfare, or the environment?**

**A:** Address such discharges through your Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) program or, for Phase I permittees, your Source Control program. No immediate notification to Ecology or other authorities is required. Retain records of the illicit discharge and your associated response actions to report in your Municipal Stormwater Permit Annual Report.

**Municipal Stormwater Permittee Notification and Reporting Procedures for Discharges and Spills into and from the MS4**

Retain records of the incident or situation and associated response actions. The permit requires that you make this information available upon request and, as applicable, report it in your Municipal Stormwater Permit Annual Report. The table on pages 3 and 4 describes reporting requirements.

Type of Discharge	Permit Citation	Who to Notify	Time to Notify	Permittee Special Reporting
A spill or discharge into or from my MS4, which could constitute a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment.	G3	<p><b>Ecology Regional Office:</b></p> <p><b>Northwest Region:</b> 1-425-649-7000</p> <p><b>Southwest Region:</b> 1-360-407-6300</p> <p><b>Central Region:</b> 1-509-575-2490</p> <p><b>Eastern Region:</b> 1-509-329-3400</p>	Immediately, but no later than 24-hours after obtaining the knowledge.	Notify jurisdictions, or secondary permittees, with inter-connected MS4s as needed.
A spill or discharge of <u>oil or hazardous substances</u> into or from my MS4, which presents a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment.	G3	<p><b>National Response Center:</b> 1-800-424-8802</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>Washington Emergency Management Division:</b> 1-800-258-5990 OR 1-800-OILS-911</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>Ecology Regional Office</b> (see above)</p>	Immediately	None
A spill or discharge into or from my MS4, which might cause <u>bacterial contamination of shellfish</u> .  (Western Washington only)	G3	<p><b>WA State Department of Health:</b> 1-360-236-3330</p> <p>AND</p> <p><b>Ecology Regional Office:</b></p> <p><b>Northwest Region:</b> 1-425-649-7000</p> <p><b>Southwest Region:</b> 1-360-407-6300</p>	Immediately	None
A discharge from my MS4 that is causing or contributing to a known or likely violation of water quality standards.	S4.F	<p>Notify your assigned regional Ecology permit specialist in writing in accordance with S4.F.1. The written notification must be signed by the appropriate authorized person. (See Permit Condition G19.)</p> <p>NOTE: This discharge may also require immediate notification under G3, as above.</p>	Within 30 days of determining the discharge contributes to a known or likely violation of water quality standards.	Your regional Ecology permit specialist will respond in writing in accordance with the applicable provisions in S4.F.2.

Type of Discharge	Permit Citation	Who to Notify	Time to Notify	Permittee Special Reporting
Illicit discharges that do <u>not</u> present threats to human health, welfare, or the environment, or cause or contribute to a known or likely water quality violation.	Various	Document in your Municipal Stormwater Permit Annual Report.	Include in your annual report submittal.	None

**Regional Ecology Permit Specialists**

If you need to report an illicit discharge or spill, call the appropriate regional hotline as directed by this FAQ. For all other questions and to notify Ecology under Special Condition S4.F.1, contact the following Ecology staff:

<i>Island, Skagit and Whatcom Counties</i>	<b>Christina Maginnis</b> <a href="mailto:cmag461@ecy.wa.gov">cmag461@ecy.wa.gov</a>	360-715-5212
<i>Phase I Permittees (City of Seattle, King and Snohomish Counties) and Phase II Permittees within Snohomish County</i>	<b>Rachel McCre</b> <a href="mailto:rmcc461@ecy.wa.gov">rmcc461@ecy.wa.gov</a>	425-649-7223
<i>Phase II Cities within King and Kitsap Counties</i>	<b>Anne Dettelbach</b> <a href="mailto:adet461@ecy.wa.gov">adet461@ecy.wa.gov</a>	425-649-7093
<i>Clallam and Pierce Counties</i>	<b>Vince McGowan</b> <a href="mailto:vmcg461@ecy.wa.gov">vmcg461@ecy.wa.gov</a>	360-407-7320
<i>Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Lewis, and Thurston Counties</i>	<b>Deborah Cornett</b> <a href="mailto:dcor461@ecy.wa.gov">dcor461@ecy.wa.gov</a>	360-690-7269
<i>Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, and Yakima Counties</i>	<b>Terry Wittmeier</b> <a href="mailto:twit461@ecy.wa.gov">twit461@ecy.wa.gov</a>	509-574-3991
<i>Asotin, Franklin, Grant, Spokane, Walla Walla, and Whitman Counties</i>	<b>Dave Duncan</b> <a href="mailto:ddun461@ecy.wa.gov">ddun461@ecy.wa.gov</a>	509-329-3554

**Special accommodations:**

To ask about the availability of this document in a version for the visually impaired, call the Water Quality Program at 360-407-6401. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.