

Environmental Insight



Impacts of Stormwater on the Environment

Stormwater picks up and carries numerous pollutants into our waterways. Many of these pollutants can cause problems in very small amounts. The cumulative effects of stormwater runoff on water bodies are evident in Puget Sound. The nearby water bodies that regularly receive untreated stormwater, now suffer from poor water quality. Pollutants in stormwater may include antifreeze, grease, oil, and heavy metals from cars; fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals from gardens, homes and businesses; bacteria from pet wastes and failing septic systems; and sediment from poor construction site practices.

What are the impacts?

- **Sediment** - Sediment enters stormwater when rainwater flows across bare soil. Soil particles become entrained in the runoff and are carried to streams. Sediment reduces water clarity, impedes aquatic plant growth and destroys aquatic habitat.
- **Nutrients** - In urban environments the two largest contributors to nutrients in stormwater runoff are pet waste and fertilizer. Excess nutrients cause algae overgrowths or algal blooms which may be toxic to humans and pets and reduce water oxygen levels for fish and other aquatic organisms.
- **Bacteria and pathogens** - Human and animal waste (pets and wildlife) contribute bacteria and pathogens to stormwater. Animal waste is carried to the storm sewer system by surface runoff. Human waste may enter the storm sewer system due to aging and failing infrastructure, sanitary sewer overflows, and inappropriately maintained septic systems. In excess, these bacteria and pathogens cause illness and result in closing of swimming areas and impairment of streams that limits other recreational use.
- **Trash and debris** - Stormwater runoff picks up trash and pollutants from streets and parking lots. These are carried through the storm sewer system and into our waterways. Trash may choke or suffocate wildlife and is unsightly.
- **Oils, chemicals, and other pollutants** - From leaking automotive fluids to paint brushes rinsed out in the driveway, any chemical that is not properly stored, used, or disposed of has the potential to end up in the storm drain. Pollutants and chemicals alter water chemistry, diminishing water quality that supports many aquatic organisms.



If not properly managed, the volume of stormwater can flood and damage homes and businesses, flood septic system drainfields, erode stream channels, and damage or destroy fish and wildlife habitat. As you enjoy the warm summer months, be sure to leave no trace! Clean up your trash, pick up your pet's waste and make sure you maintain your vehicle to prevent leaks.

Only rain down the drain.

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Deficiencies from Tier II Inspections

The purpose of Tier II inspections at NAVSTA Everett, Smokey Point, Jim Creek and Pacific Beach is to ensure environmental compliance with Federal, State and Local requirements. EWCCs and their environmental area of responsibility are inspected quarterly or semiannually by environmental staff. A Tier II inspection covers several environmental aspects such as general requirements, legal requirements, resources, roles, responsibility and authority, competence, training and awareness, communication, documentation, monitoring, evaluation of compliance, and corrective and preventative actions. Training includes the annual refresher on General Environmental Training, ECATTS, and internal training within the shop.

The vast majority of Tier II deficiencies fall under the heading of Competence, Training and Awareness. Listed below is a breakdown of the most noted deficiencies documented in the system over the last 3 years in order of most cited.

- Personnel do not perform duties as trained (21)
- Necessary details within documents and records are absent or are inadequate (11)
- Training is inadequate or ineffective (5)
- Environmental requirements/ significant aspects are not adequately considered (3)
- Leadership lacks commitment and/ or sufficient organizational framework, stature, independence and authority (3)
- Internal communication is missing or ineffective (2)

If you have any ideas for improvement, questions about how to improve environmental compliance within your shop we would appreciate hearing from you. The environmental office appreciates the support of all EWCCs in maintaining environmental compliance. If you have any questions, need help with training your shop, or any other concerns, please contact Debbie Butturff at 425-304-3278 or Craig Henshaw at 425-304-3465.



Oil Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan

The new SPCC Plan for NAVSTA Everett, Smokey Point and Jim Creek was signed by the CO June 28th. There is a separate SPCC Plan for Pac Beach. Every five years the SPCC Plan is reviewed and updated. This new SPCC Plan underwent significant change. Due to its file size, EWCCs who inspect SPCC tanks will receive a DOD Safe file of the new Plan. Please contact Holli Lamb at 425-304-3277 if you have any specific questions on the new SPCC Plan. Below are of significant importance:

- The monthly and annual inspections forms were updated
- The use of the DLA electronic inspection form for DLA tanks is allowed
- Tanks in Annexes D, G, H, L and N were updated for clarity



Stormwater Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP)

The SWPPP was updated to comply with the terms and conditions of the Multi Sector General Permit (MSGP). This permit authorizes us to discharge under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity. The new SWPPP incorporated the new requirements of the 2021 MSGP and was signed June 9th. The SWPPP summarizes the potential pollution sources, control measures, schedule and procedures to address stormwater pollution and required documentation and reports to the EPA. Significant changes to the SWPPP include:

- Additional storm water analytical monitoring at Outfalls A, B and C. (Cu, Zn, Al, Pb, TSS, COD, pH and PAHs)
- Addition of Outfall D analytical monitoring (TSS, COD, pH and PAHs)
- Additional Stormwater Compliance Strategies
- Potential Industrial Activity Pollutants and Associated Outfalls
- Authorized and Unauthorized Stormwater Discharges
- Required Inspections
- Required Best Management Practices

Per the requirement of the MSGP, a redacted version of the SWPPP will be posted online for anyone to access. For specific questions, please contact Holli Lamb at 425-304-3277.



Recycling: Shredded Paper

Did you know that you may recycle the shredded paper your workspace generates? Shredded paper should always be placed into a plastic bag and put into your blue recycling bin. Please do not put loose shred into a recycling bin. When emptying containers with loose shred, it creates a mess and generates a lot of nuisance dust. Always bag it!

Shredded paper that is fine or pulverized is mixed with our food waste as it goes out to be composted. Thicker shredded paper is baled with our mixed paper and recycled. Please keep any shredded plastic materials separate and place directly into your dumpster.

Composting or recycling your shredded paper is still cheaper than sending it to the landfill; and there is the added benefit to the Environment. It is win, win, when you bag it for the Recycle Program.

If you are planning to shred many papers, please contact the Integrated Solid Waste Office (ISW) at 304-3071. They will deliver additional recycle containers or be ready for a drop off if you plan to bring it to building 2331, to keep your spaces clear.



Natural Resources: Seals and Sea Lions

You may have noticed Pacific harbor seals and California sea lions at Naval Station Everett swimming in the water or hauled out on the floating log rafts or security barrier pontoons. Enjoy watching these animals, but note that they are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and must be left alone.

Every year, harbor seals come up on docks and on shore at Naval Station Everett to give birth. Harbor seal babies (pups) are born from mid-June through mid-August. Pups that appear to be abandoned or in distress do not need to be rescued; seal pups are frequently found alone and this is normal. A pup may be waiting for its mom to return, or it may already

be weaned and is on its own. Please maintain a safe distance of at least 100 yards from seal pups to avoid disturbing the pup or preventing the mom from returning.



Pacific harbor seal



California sea lions

To report an injured or dead seal, sea lion, or other marine mammal, notify the NAVSTA Everett Environmental Division: (425) 304-3464.