Toolbox Talk
Storm Water & Spill Response

Storm Water
Rainfall, snow and ice melt. That's it!

Why Protect Storm Water?
Storm water flows to storm inlets which directly discharge untreated water to creeks and rivers.

Storm water run-off picks up pollutants as it flows, therefore it is a main pollution source from land drainage. Pollutants include anything that is not storm water – petroleum products, chemicals, paint/wash, sediment, concrete dust/washout, excessive grass clippings, etc.

The University holds a municipal storm water permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency that also specifically prohibits non-storm water discharges. This permit is governed by the federal Clean Water Act and requires the University to report specific amounts of released pollutants to emergency management officials. All projects are subject to these requirements.

Increased pollutants in storm water can equate to:

- Less oxygen for aquatic life (fish and plants).
- Negative effects on terrestrial wildlife which depend on aquatic systems for survival.
- Increased flooding.
- Impaired recreational activities like hunting, fishing, swimming and boating.
- Potential fines from Clean Water Act and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency stormwater permit violations.

Protecting Storm Water
Storm water protection can be accomplished with proper waste disposal, safe material storage, and quick spill response. Best Management Practices can reduce the amount of pollutants that reach waterways:

- Obtain the proper stormwater permits and develop Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) if a construction project is greater than or equal to an acre.
- If a liquid is not rainfall, snow or ice melt, do not put it in a storm drain.
- Clean all yard equipment and concrete tools away from storm drains.
- Protect storm drains from dewatering sediment.
- Rinse latex paint brushes and mop buckets in sanitary drains (not storm).
- Store liquids away from drains, inside, under cover, and on spill pallets.
- Have stabilized construction site entrances and remove tracked roadway sediment before rain and by the end of the day.
- Have oil dry and drain protection pads/booms nearby to stop spills from reaching drains.
- Train employees on spill response procedures and who to call for assistance.

Spill Response - Accidents happen!

If you witness a spill or see evidence that a spill has occurred, contact emergency personnel promptly. Calling 911 or the Service Office is the quickest way to dispatch emergency personnel and to notify Safety and Compliance staff. Response time is critical to minimize the material amount released.

If a LIFE THREATENING release, **dial 911!**

If a NON-LIFE THREATENING release:

- Dial 217-333-0340 (F&S Service Office)
- If calling after normal working hours, press 0 to be redirected to Public Safety

Give the following information, if known or can be obtained safely:

- Address where the release occurred
- Spill location on property (inside or outside building)
- Date and time of the release
- Substance released
- Source/cause of the release
- Estimated total quantity released
- Estimated quantity, that entered a storm or sanitary sewer, Boneyard Creek, or Embarras River
- Damages or injuries caused by the release
- Actions used to stop or control the release
- Whether any life is threatened by the release
- Other persons who have been contacted

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Trainer: _____ Date: _____

Attendees Printed Name:

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