



Dewatering Sedimentation & Sewer Overflows

Sediment is a non-point source pollutant to storm water and causes decreased surface water quality. Sedimentation will result in murky water and muddy gravel beds in local waterways. These cause negative impacts on aquatic environments which makes it less useful for recreation and less inhabitable to wildlife. Storm water in sanitary sewers puts undo stress on wastewater treatment facilities and can cause overflows within the sanitary sewer system which also has negative affects by potentially allowing untreated sewage to flow into waterways.



The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) regulates storm water dewatering activities to storm sewers by requiring sediment control and inspections for dewatering activities. These guidelines are designed to protect waterways by preventing or minimizing sedimentation.



The Urbana & Champaign Sanitary District (UCSD) also prohibits storm water discharge to the public sanitary sewer system in Ordinance 678, Sections 303 and 501. Unpolluted water should not be sent to UCSD due to an increased potential for untreated wastewater overflows to creeks and rivers.

Control Methods

To protect waterways, wastewater treatment facilities and to be compliant with federal, state and local requirements, all University of Illinois facilities must follow storm water dewatering guidelines developed by the IEPA and UCSD.



Standard operating procedures for dewatering activities:

- No storm water can be discharged to UCSD's sanitary sewer system
- Storm water dewatering discharges must be routed through sediment control(s) and to vegetated or filler stone areas for infiltration, and then to storm
- Upland well vegetated/grass areas should be used to infiltrate dewatering water
- No sediment/solids, sheen or foam can be visible in the storm water discharge
- Storm water dewatering inspections must occur daily during the activity and inspections must be documented on the IEPA inspection form with photos
- Immediately report outdoor or drain spills to the Facilities & Services, Service Office at 217-333-0340



These guidelines are based on regulatory requirements available in June 2024. Non-University employees are responsible to identify and provide future changes in storm water and sanitary regulatory requirements to their staff.



Trainer: _____

Date: _____

Attendees Printed Name:
