



## Heavy Equipment Operation

# Best Management Practices for the Construction Industry

### Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In San Mateo County, storm drains flow directly to local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean with no treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or wetlands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

All of the cities in San Mateo County have joined together with San Mateo County and the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) to educate local residents and businesses and fight storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices described in this pamphlet.

#### Who should use this brochure?

#### Storm drain pollution from heavy equipment on the construction site

Poorly maintained vehicles and heavy equipment leaking fuel, oil, antifreeze or other fluids on the construction site are common sources of storm drain pollution. Prevent spills and leaks by isolating equipment from runoff channels, and by watching for leaks and other maintenance problems. Remove construction equipment from the site as soon as possible.

Vehicle and equipment operators  
Site supervisors  
General contractors  
Home builders  
Developers

### What Can You Do?

#### *Site planning and preventive vehicle maintenance*

- ◆ Designate a completely contained area of the construction site, well away from streams or storm drain inlets, for auto and equipment parking, refueling, and routine vehicle and equipment maintenance.
- ◆ Maintain all vehicles and heavy equipment. Inspect frequently for and repair leaks.
- ◆ Perform major maintenance, repair jobs, and vehicle and equipment washing off site.
- ◆ If you must drain and replace motor oil, radiator coolant, or other fluids on site, use drip pans or drop cloths to catch drips and spills. Collect all spent fluids, store in separate containers, and recycle whenever possible, or dispose of fluids as hazardous waste.
- ◆ Do not use diesel oil to lubricate or clean equipment or parts.

- ◆ Recycle used vehicle batteries.

#### *Clean up spills immediately when they happen*

- ◆ Never hose down "dirty" pavement or impermeable surfaces where fluids have spilled. Use dry cleanup methods (absorbent materials, cat litter, and/or rags) whenever possible. If you must use water, use just enough to keep the dust down.
- ◆ Sweep up spilled dry materials immediately. Never attempt to "wash them away" with water, or bury them. Use as little water as possible for dust control.
- ◆ Clean up spills on dirt areas by digging up and properly disposing of contaminated soil.
- ◆ Report significant spills to the appropriate spill response agencies immediately



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