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Are you aware of your responsibilities in the event of a hazardous waste spill or leak?

The **Tributary Tribune** informs the Industrial Users of the Plant's service area, which includes the cities of San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Cupertino Sanitary District, West Valley Sanitation District (including Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga), County Sanitation District No. 2-3, and Burbank Sanitary District.

Hazardous Waste Management: *Do it Right for Human Safety and Environmental Health*

Paper No More!
**Future Information
will be Electronic**
See page 2 for details.

Few issues are as critical to personal and public well being and environmental health as the proper handling of hazardous waste. Proper handling, storage, and recordkeeping of hazardous waste is, therefore, required by law to protect employees, the public, and the environment from toxic spills, fires, explosions, or other dire consequences. Because spills have implications for wastewater and stormwater, inspections of your hazardous waste practices are a key part of the Pretreatment Program.

Your Environmental Inspector will examine your hazardous waste storage area and documentation to determine:

- Is waste properly labeled and within its proper storage time limit?
- Is waste properly contained and protected against leaks and spills?
- How are wastes being disposed and how often?

Inadequate handling and control of hazardous waste may result in violations and the need for a slug control plan or referral to another regulatory agency. The following guidelines protect against accidental spills or discharge and related violations:

Proper Labeling

All hazardous waste receptacles, whether drums or other containers, must be clearly labeled "Hazardous Waste." Labels should include: type, properties, date of accumulation, and name and



Hazardous materials properly stored and labeled.

address of the generator. Unused drums must be labeled "empty." Periodically inspect your containers and check labels to replace lost or illegible labels and to review hold times for disposal.

Proper Containment and Storage

Containers that store waste must be closed in a manner that prevents leakage and stored within a water-tight secondary containment area. The required capacity of secondary containment depends on the size and number of waste containers stored as follows:

- 100% of the waste volume for only one container, or
- 150% of the largest container volume or 10% of the total volume of multiple containers, whichever is larger.

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The secondary containment area must be rain-protected, otherwise additional volume requirements apply.

The siting and management of the storage area also plays a key role in effective waste management. Choose a storage site that helps protect against spills. Storage adjacent to drains, slopes, or generators

could exacerbate a spill. Stacking drums is not recommended and extending containers beyond the edge of secondary containment is not allowed.

Schedule weekly inspections of your containers for leaks, bulging, and any other signs that correction is needed. Spills or liquids found around containers should be cleaned up following standard processes.

Any needed repairs, such as fixing a leak, should be taken care of promptly.

Proper Recordkeeping and Disposal

Be sure to keep manifests and treatment logs onsite for three years and accessible for your inspector's review. Manifests track wastes generated and describe disposal methods; this enables your inspector to verify that hazardous wastes are being properly disposed and not discharged to the sewer.

The Bottom Line

These steps for proper handling of hazardous waste are first and foremost essential to the safety and well being of your employees, the public, and the environment. But they also have benefits to your bottom line: By properly managing and storing materials and chemicals, you can help prevent the deterioration of raw materials and you may see savings in chemical purchases. Compliance will also help avoid any penalties associated with poor practices or a spill. 🐟

Paper No More!

Tributary Tribune Information will be on Website

Sign Up for Electronic Notifications

This is the LAST hard copy edition of the Tributary Tribune. We are overhauling our website and will continue to provide information to Industrial Users either by posting it on the new website, or by sending out an electronic newsletter. Please indicate if you would like to receive emails that alert you to either the newsletter or website updates. Send your email to tributary.tribune@sanjoseca.gov. If you have already signed up for the mailing list, you do not need to do it again. 🐟



Ask Your Inspector

Q: Who Do I Call if a Spill reaches a Storm Drain or Sanitary Sewer?

A:	Area	Stormwater	Sanitary
Burbank Sanitary District	Business Hours:	(408) 255-2137	Business Hours: (408) 255-2137
	After Hours:	(408) 299-2507	After Hours: (408) 299-2507
			24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
Campbell	Business Hours:	(408) 354-5385	Business Hours: (408) 866-2145
	After Hours:	(408) 299-2507	24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
Cupertino Sanitary District	Business Hours:	(408) 253-7071	Business Hours: (408) 253-7071
	After Hours:	(408) 299-2507	After Hours: (408) 299-2507
			24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
Cupertino	Business Hours:	(408) 777-3269	Business Hours: (408) 253-7071
	After Hours:	(408) 299-2507	After Hours: (408) 299-2507
			24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
Los Gatos	Business Hours:	(408) 354-5385	24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
Milpitas	Business Hours:	(408) 586-2600	24 Hours: (408) 586-2400
	After Hours:	(408) 586-2400	
Monte Sereno		(408) 354-5385	24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
San José	Business Hours:	(408) 945-3000	Business Hours: (408) 945-3000
	24 Hours:	(408) 635-4000	24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
	24 Hours:	(408) 794-1900 DOT	
Santa Clara	Business Hours:	(408) 615-2000	24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
	After Hours:	(408) 615-5640	
Santa Clara (Unincorporated)			24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
Saratoga	Business Hours:	(408) 253-7071	24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
	After Hours:	(408) 299-2507	
County Sanitation Districts 2-3	Business Hours:	(408) 253-7071	Business Hours: (408) 253-7071
	After Hours:	(408) 299-2507	After Hours: (408) 299-2507
			24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
West Valley Sanitation District	Business Hours:	(408) 378-2407	24 Hours: (408) 635-4000
	After Hours:	(408) 299-2507	

Storage Practices Can Lead to Healthier Creeks and Bay

Industrial facilities typically use a variety of materials and chemicals, and if these substances are used or stored outside, they can wash into runoff that enters the storm drain system and then pollute our creeks and Bay. Pollutants of concern include pesticides, sediments, heavy metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, and microbial pathogens — these are all harmful to wildlife, aquatic organisms, and, ultimately, our community. We all depend on healthy waterways, and your facility can help prevent stormwater pollution by implementing these best management practices (BMPs):

Best Management Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution

1. Create pollution prevention awareness:

Train employees to recognize how pollutants can reach the creeks and Bay through storm drains; point out any onsite and nearby drains and inlets, and educate them on proper materials storage and handling.

2. Reduce the impervious surface area

at your site: Large impervious surface areas typically lead to increased runoff containing pollutants. Installing infiltration landscaping will catch and filter this drainage, but to avoid contaminating groundwater, make sure installations are not in the downstream path of areas assigned to the storage and handling of hazardous waste.

3. Identify additional treatment controls:

If activities at the site have potential to generate significant pollutants in the runoff, additional treatment controls must be considered. Industrial Users must identify the best ways to eliminate or reduce pollutants prior to stormwater contact.

Practice Good Housekeeping for Storage

In addition to the practices outlined in our cover article, these best housekeeping practices lead to effective hazardous waste management:

- Proper external storage must include rain cover, adequate lighting, insulated electrical circuitry, and clear aisles. Space must be left between rows of drums to allow visual inspection of each container.
- Raw materials and chemicals must be stored in a locked area with secondary containment.
- Do not stack containers higher than recommended or in a manner that encourages tipping, punctures, or breakage. Do not stack equipment against containers.
- Maintain clear distances and berms between different types of chemicals to prevent cross-contamination and reaction in case of leaks or spills.
- Maintain clear and even walkway surfaces when materials or equipment are being moved to reduce accidental spills.
- Inspect the storage area at least weekly for signs of leaky containers or other problems. 🐾



John Fosnaugh

John Fosnaugh has more than three years of experience inspecting and sampling commercial and industrial facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, reservoirs, and creeks. He previously worked for the Santa Clara Valley Water District as a Water Conservation Specialist. John also has extensive experience in data collection and analysis and database creation. He spent several years working as a Quality Assurance and Quality Control engineer. John has B.A. in Life Sciences from San José State University. 🐾



Sarah McBee

Sarah McBee has more than three years of inspection and sampling experience. Prior to working with the City, Sarah worked for the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency as a Source Control Inspector performing Fats, Oils and Grease, pretreatment, and stormwater inspections. She also spent several years working as a chemist. Sarah has a B.S. in Chemistry and a M.S. in Environmental Science, both from Texas A&M University. 🐾



Brian Fontes

Brian has a Bachelors Degree in Biological Sciences from San José State and two Associate Degrees (A.A. and A.S.) in Biology from Cabrillo College. He also possesses a California Water Environmental Association Lab Grade I certification in addition to California Department of Public Health Grade I certifications in Water Distribution and Water Treatment. Brian previously worked for the City of Watsonville, where he was responsible for conducting lab and field analyses, collecting water and wastewater samples, and assisting with specialized investigations. 🐾

TributaryTribune

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Did You Know?

Are you aware of your responsibilities in the event of a hazardous material or waste spill or leak?

If you discover a spill or leak that could threaten human health or is too large or unsafe for onsite employees to control, then immediately call 911. Your facility's emergency coordinator must also call the EPA's National Response Center at **(800) 424-8802** to report the situation and receive additional guidance.

For small, controllable spills or leaks, trained personnel must immediately contain the flow of hazardous materials or waste to the best extent possible. They must clean up the hazardous waste and any contaminated materials according to the facility's pre-established procedures.

Once the spill or leak is contained, the emergency coordinator must notify their assigned Environmental Inspector immediately to avoid penalties. The inspector can be contacted at his or her direct line or by calling **(408) 945-3000**. The next step is to then complete all required or requested reporting. This includes writing an entry in the spill log that specifies the type of spill or leak, the materials involved, the date and time of the spill or leak, the extent of any injuries, and the estimated quantity and disposition of any recovered materials. 



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of San José Environmental Services Department materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audio-tape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling (408) 945-3000 (Voice) or (800) 735-2929 (CRS).



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