

Focus On Municipal Stormwater

General Condition G3 Reporting



For More Information

Contact

Abbey Stockwell
 Municipal Stormwater Senior
 Planner
abbey.stockwell@ecy.wa.gov
 (360) 407-7221

Website

<https://ecology.wa.gov/ms4>

Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6431 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Reporting discharges and spills under the Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permits

Throughout the calendar year, Permittees discover and are informed of spills and other incidents that may have resulted in illicit discharges. The permits require investigation of each credible reported incident. Good record keeping is required to document illicit discharges and the Permittee's response.

Illicit discharge means any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer (MS4) that is not composed entirely of stormwater or of non-stormwater discharges allowed as specified. (Definition from the permit)

Three kinds of situations require notification and reporting to Ecology:

- ◆ Illicit discharges **into the MS4** that could constitute a threat to human health or the environment – requires both G3 and annual reporting.
- ◆ Discharges **from the MS4** that may cause or contribute to a threat to human health or the environment or that are causing or contributing to a violation of water quality standards – requires both G3 and annual reporting (See also S4.F Compliance with Standards in the permits)
- ◆ Illicit discharges, or allowable or authorized discharges, that **do not** present a threat to human health or the environment, and **do not** cause the MS4's discharge to contribute to a violation of water quality standards – G3 reporting is not required, but annual reporting is required (see annual reporting instructions in your relevant Permit appendices).

Table 1 describes G3 reporting methods. General Condition G3 is a stand-alone permit requirement. You must report any discharge — authorized or not, allowed or not — which you determine could constitute a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment. For example, though discharges associated with emergency firefighting activities are allowed by the permit, the discharge is still subject to the G3 notification requirement.

Note that for spills or discharges to marine water that might cause bacterial contamination, a single email copied to both your Ecology regional office and the Department of Health shellfish contact will satisfy the notification requirement. Retain records of any discharge or spill incident and document any actions associated with your response. Follow the instructions for the annual reporting.

Your jurisdiction should have additional internal notification procedures, and other response procedures may be needed. Contact your Ecology regional permit manager with questions.

Table 1—Instructions for G3 Reporting

Type of spill or discharge	Who to notify	When to notify	Other notifications
Oil, hazardous substances, and/or chemical spills to water	Washington Emergency Management Division: 800-258-5990 or 1-800-OILS-911 (1-800-645-7911)	Immediately	For any of these spills or discharges, be sure to notify other jurisdictions with inter-connected MS4s.
Sewage spills, or other potential sources of bacterial contamination typically constitute a threat to human health, welfare or the environment	Washington State Dept of Health by email at sf.growingarea@doh.wa.gov OR by phone at 360-789-8962 and your Ecology regional office.	Immediately	Northwest (NWRO): Online: Statewide reporting form Email: nwroerts@ecy.wa.gov Phone: 206-594-0000 Southwest (SWRO): Online: Statewide reporting form Email: swroerts@ecy.wa.gov Phone: 360-407-6300
Any discharge (including spills) into or from the MS4, that could constitute a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment	Your Ecology regional office by online reporting form, email, or phone. (See contact info on page 1) If you called the Washington Emergency Management Division (above), that counts as notification to Ecology and no additional call or email is needed.	Immediately, or within 24 hours of learning about the incident	Central (CRO): Online: Statewide reporting form Email: croerts@ecy.wa.gov Phone: 509-575-2490 Eastern (ERO): Online: Statewide reporting form Email: eroerts@ecy.wa.gov Phone: 509-329-3400 Online reporting form: ecology.wa.gov/ERTS

The following types of incidents **MAY NOT** require immediate reporting under G3 of the MS4 permit, provided that they do not pose a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment. Include these in your annual report for your IDDE program:

- *Spills, illicit discharges, or allowable or authorized discharges that **do not** pose a threat to human health, welfare, or the environment.*
 - Oil sheens from roads, parking lots, and other typical urban runoff into or from the MS4 that does not have a discrete source or cause of the sheen.
 - Dry weather spills that are properly cleaned up to prevent reaching water.
 - Other spills that you have cleaned up without a discharge to water.

