



City of Cañon City

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Second Quarter 2016

Stormwater Management Program News



Announcements:

The 2015 Annual Stormwater Program Review is now available on the City of Cañon City's website: http://cms4.revize.com/revize/canoncity/departments/streets_stormwater_and_engineering/permits_reports.php. The report contains a more detailed description of the information given below.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) issued the final revised General Permit for Discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) on April 15, 2016. The permit becomes effective July 1, 2016. This COR090000 permit is the general permit which the CDPHE has issued to all Phase II MS4s, including the City of Cañon City. To view the permit and fact sheet visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/wq-final-permit-actions>.

2015 Stormwater Program Overview

In 2003, the City of Cañon City was issued a permit for "Stormwater Discharges Associated with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s)" from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). This permit was renewed in 2008. The 2003 permit required Cañon City to develop, implement and enforce a Colorado Discharge Permit System (CDPS) Stormwater Management Plan. The program had to be designed to reduce the discharge of pollutants from our storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable to protect the water quality of the Arkansas River and Four Mile Creek and to satisfy the appropriate water quality requirements of the Colorado Water Quality Control Act and Colorado Discharge Permit Regulations. The permit also requires that the City of Cañon City do a written annual review of the program and to submit an annual report to the State.

The MS4 discharge permit contains six areas the City must address in its stormwater management plan. These areas are:

1. Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts
2. Public Involvement/Participation
3. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
4. Construction Site Runoff Control
5. Post-construction Stormwater Management
6. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations.

Each of the six areas has several program elements which are used to meet the goals of the stormwater management plan. A brief summary of activities and programs used to meet the requirements for each area during 2015 follows:

Public Education/Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement

Some of the methods the Stormwater Program uses to fulfill the requirements of this area include newsletters, public service announcements, stormwater presentations at schools and to various organizations, booths at festivals and stenciling of storm drains.

- 1) During 2015, four quarterly newsletters were sent to residential customers and commercial establishments. These newsletters addressed the stormwater management program and asked for feedback from readers. A total of 34,827 newsletters were mailed with water bills or sent directly to specified businesses.
- 2) A joint Water/Stormwater booth was set up during the Blossom Parade. A Stormwater Information booth was set up at the Cañon City Police Department's National Night Out and during the St. Thomas More Children's Health Fair. Brochures, magnets, litter bags, pet waste bag dispensers and children's activity booklets were given out. Staff was available to answer questions about the Stormwater Program and to give demonstrations about runoff. A total of 360 visitors stopped by the booth during the events and 51 demonstrations were given.
- 3) Stormwater runoff demonstrations and presentations were given to the 3rd and 4th grades at Cañon Exploratory School and the Washington Elementary School and to kindergarten through 5th grade at the Lincoln School of Science and Technology. A presentation about green infrastructure for residential areas was given at the Dawson Ranch HOA Spring Meeting.

- 4) Eleven public service announcements were aired on the local radio station and 4 stormwater-related programs were aired fifteen times on CCTV-Channel 19.
- 5) Permanent metal storm drain markers were affixed to storm drains in Sunrise Mesa and on Tyrolean Way with the assistance of Cub Scout Troops 519 and 521.
- 6) The City has a stormwater hotline (275-5265) for citizens to phone in issues and questions. Stormwater staff handled 144 calls during 2015.
- 7) The City of Cañon City's website was completely updated during 2015. The Stormwater Program's web pages were expanded during the update to include more information for the public from information brochures on water quality, illicit discharges and construction stormwater runoff control to children's activities and booklets.
- 8) The City is a member of, or involved in, several councils and associations concerning stormwater. Various staff members attended several meetings and conferences during 2015. Cañon City's representative to the Colorado Stormwater Council served as its Vice-Chair for 2015.

Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

Program elements required by the State in this category include Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination and Staff Education.

- 1) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination: During 2015, 15 potential illegal discharges were investigated. The investigations resulted in 10 verbal warnings and 2 Notices of Non-compliance.
- 2) Our permit requires the inspection and monitoring of outfalls within the City limits. An outfall is the point where stormwater discharges to the river, creek or a drainage channel. During 2015, 186 inspections were conducted on outfalls.
- 3) Illicit Discharge training was held for 12 seasonal and new Public Works, Parks, and Water Department employees.

Construction Site Runoff Control

A requirement of the City's stormwater permit is the inspection of all applicable construction sites to assess stormwater runoff control at each site.

- 1) In 2015, 29 inspections were conducted at construction sites. These inspections resulted in 2 Notices of Noncompliance and 1 Notice of Violation and Enforcement Action with a fine.
- 2) The City of Cañon City Stormwater Program, the City of Pueblo Stormwater Utility, the Pueblo County Engineering Department and the Pueblo West Metro District held a regional stormwater seminar for contractors, developers and municipal employees in Pueblo on February 5, 2015. The seminar was attended by 89 people.

Post-construction Stormwater Management

A requirement of our permit is the annual inspection of post-construction stormwater facilities such as detention basins, stormwater quality vaults, grass swales, etc. One hundred ninety-five (195) inspections were conducted on 139 permanent facilities during 2015 (both private and public).

Municipal Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping

Our State permit requires that the City of Cañon City prevent stormwater pollution, to the best of its ability, from its facilities through good housekeeping practices.

- 1) Inspections of municipally-owned facilities (including parks) were conducted to assess the potential for pollution of stormwater runoff. During 2015, 53 inspections were done on 47 facilities with the results sent to the appropriate department head. One hundred forty-three (143) inspections were conducted on 93 municipal and private drainage channels; 262 inlets, 41 storm manholes and 223 culverts were also inspected.
- 2) Municipal Pollution Prevention training was held for 12 seasonal and new Public Works, Parks, and Water Department employees.

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either 276-5265 or grdebekker@canoncity.org.