



City of Cañon City

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First Quarter 2013 Stormwater Management Program News

2012 Stormwater Program Overview

Because the City of Cañon City is a Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permittee there are six (6) minimum measures we must meet annually. These are Public Education and Outreach, Public Participation/Involvement, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination, Construction Site Runoff Control, Post-construction Stormwater Management and Municipal Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping. A brief summary of what was accomplished in each area during 2012 follows.

Public Education/Outreach and Public Participation/Involvement

Some of the methods we use to fulfill these requirements include newsletters, public service announcements, stormwater presentations and stenciling of storm drains.

- 1) During 2012, four quarterly newsletters were sent to residential customers and commercial establishments. These newsletters address the stormwater management program and ask for feedback from readers. A total of 29,106 newsletters were mailed with water bills.
- 2) A Stormwater Information booth was set up at one of the craft fairs during Blossom weekend and at the Habitat for Humanity's Anniversary Festival. Brochures, magnets 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 375 visitors stopped by the booths and 73 demonstrations were given.
- 3) Fourteen public service announcements were aired on the local radio station and four stormwater related programs were aired fifteen times on CCTV-Channel 19.
- 4) Sixty-nine storm drains were re-stenciled with the message "Dump No Waste Drains to River" by students from Garden Park High School.
- 5) The City has a stormwater hotline (275-5265) for citizens to phone in with issues and questions. The adjacent table shows the breakdown of the one hundred twenty-two calls handled.
- 6) The City is a member of, or involved in, several councils and associations concerning stormwater. Various staff members attended several meetings and conferences during 2012.

Category	% of Calls
Information	14
Complaint	27
SW Fees/Impervious Surface	18
Illicit Discharge	32
BMP Inspection	11
Drainage Issues	7
Erosion Issues	2
Other	11

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 2012, forty-four incidents of suspected illegal discharges were reported or found during inspections. Forty-three of those were valid, requiring investigation. The investigations resulted in thirty-three verbal warnings, five Notices of Non-compliance, one Notice of Violation and Enforcement Action and one Cease and Desist Order.
- 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 2012 one hundred ninety-one inspections were conducted on outfalls.
- 3) An Illicit Discharge Detection Refresher was held for twenty-four City employees.
- 4) Water quality tests were performed at seven sites for baseline data, permit monitoring and illicit discharge detection.

Construction Site Runoff Control

A requirement of the City's stormwater permit is the inspection of all construction sites to assess stormwater runoff control at each site. In 2012, twenty-three inspections were conducted at ten construction sites. These inspections resulted in three Notices of Non-compliance and one Cease and Desist Order.

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 eighty inspections were done during 2012 on permanent facilities (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. Twenty-four City employees attended a refresher course on pollution prevention in December. Inspections of municipally owned facilities (including parks) were conducted to assess the potential for pollution of stormwater runoff. During 2012, forty-two inspections were done with the results sent to the appropriate department heads. Ninety-six inspections were conducted on municipal and private drainage channels and three hundred fifty-two inspections were done on inlets.

Other Accomplishments

- Clean-up and maintenance of Mud Gulch and several other drainages throughout the city.
- Construction of a drainage channel and pipes to alleviate property damage along Wild Rose Dr.
- Rebuilding of the low flow road crossings on North Sand Creek.

State and Federal News

The Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE) issues and administers the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) Permit on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). During 2012 a new State regulation (#85) was enacted which has some affect on this permit. Regulation #85, Nutrients Management Control Regulation, is concerned primarily with wastewater treatment plants but also contains a section on stormwater. The City of Cañon City, through its affiliation with the Colorado Stormwater Council (CSC), worked with the State to reduce the stormwater requirements in the regulation from automated monitoring of outfalls to conducting an initial data report identifying what stormwater nutrient data is available and where data gaps exist. Cañon City is participating with the CSC to develop the initial required statewide report.

The general MS4 permit (mentioned above) is due to be renewed. The State is considering several revisions to the permit before renewing it. Representatives from Cañon City (along with representatives from other permitted MS4s throughout the state) have been attending meetings with CDPHE to provide input on the proposed revisions.

The EPA has been working on revisions to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) under which stormwater permits are issued. The revisions are due to be out for public comment this summer. Cañon City, again through its affiliation with the CSC and through an Information Collection Request the EPA sent out, has provided comments throughout the process concerning the proposed changes.

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. You may also write to The City of Cañon City's Stormwater Program, P.O. Box 1460, Cañon City, CO 81215-1460.



Remember: The responsibility for keeping our City's and State's waterways clean for all to enjoy ultimately falls to everyone in the choices they make. Please make wise choices.