



City of Cañon City

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First Quarter 2015 Stormwater Management Program News

Announcements:

The 2014 Annual Stormwater Program Review is now available on the City of Cañon City's website: <http://www.canoncity.org/Utilities/Stormwater.htm>. The report contains a more detailed description of the information given below.

February, 2015, precipitation and snowfall: A search of the records from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) show that this February had the third largest total precipitation and snowfall amounts on record since 1900. Total precipitation for February, 2015, was 2.12"; only 1905 (6") and 1903 (2.16") had more. Snowfall for this February was 19.8". February, 1997, and 1903, had more with 28.7" and 27" respectively.

2014 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 2014 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 and stenciling of storm drains.

- 1) During 2014, 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 35,146 newsletters were mailed with water bills.
- 2) A Stormwater Information booth was set up at one of the craft fairs during Blossom weekend. Brochures, magnets, litter bags, pet waste baggie 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 322 visitors stopped by the booth and 55 demonstrations were given.
- 3) Stormwater runoff demonstrations and presentations were given to the 4th and 5th grades at Harrison School, to the students at the Washington Elementary School and to participants in the Cañon City Library's Summer Reading Program.
- 4) Eight (8) public service announcements were aired on the local radio station and 4 stormwater-related programs were aired fifteen times on CCTV-Channel 19.
- 5) The storm drain inlets scheduled to have the stenciling refreshed during 2014 were in a construction zone during the time frame stenciling is typically done. The stencils on these inlets will be refreshed in 2015.

Approval was given to purchase metal storm drain markers to be installed in two subdivisions. The markers were received in late December and will be installed in early 2015.

6) The City has a stormwater hotline (275-5265) for citizens to phone in issues and questions. There were 143 during 2014.

7) The City is a member of, or involved in, several councils and associations concerning stormwater. Various staff members attended several meetings and conferences during 2014.

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 2014, 30 potential illegal discharges were investigated. The investigations resulted in 27 verbal warnings and 6 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 2014, 138 inspections were conducted on outfalls.

3) An Illicit Discharge training was held for 14 seasonal and new Public Works, Parks, Code Enforcement and contract employees.

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.

1) In 2014, 38 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 and the Pueblo County Engineering Department held a regional stormwater seminar for contractors, developers and municipal employees in Cañon City on February 5, 2014. The seminar was attended by 53 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. 176 inspections were conducted on 135 permanent facilities during 2014 (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 2014, 47 inspections were done on 43 facilities with the results sent to the appropriate department head. One hundred one (101) inspections were conducted on 66 municipal and private drainage channels; 335 inlets and 20 storm manholes were also inspected.

2) A Municipal Pollution Prevention training was held for 14 seasonal and new Public Works, Parks, Code Enforcement and contract employees.



"We live in a global environment, which is a closed system. Environmental contamination affects us all." Richard Radcliff

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.