Environmental Health and Safety
Environmental Compliance

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Stormwater Management at Texas A&M

Environmental Stewards

Protection of surface waters and the environment are essential to water quality and a vital part of sustaining future generations.

Texas A&M University is committed to protecting all natural resources and stormwater management is an imperative part of that commitment. Without monitoring and regulations, municipal storm sewers could become contaminated with pollutants. Illicit discharges to local storm systems can affect aquatic and avian life. Three storm water activities regulated by the state of Texas are: Municipal Separate Storm Systems (MS4s), Industrial, and Construction activities.

Stormwater Management Plan

Texas A&M's Stormwater Management Plan describes actions and best management practices (BMPs) the university follows to ensure contaminates do not pollute the local storm system. The university is required to develop a plan to minimize the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable. Texas A&M's plan has minimum measures that are reported to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) annually by EHS. The requirements of the state permit (TXR040000) are set by TCEQ as parameters to guide an MS4 through compliance with the permit. These areas include:

1. Public Education Outreach and Involvement
2. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
3. Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
4. Post-construction Stormwater Management: New and Redevelopment
5. Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping
6. Industrial Stormwater Sources

Only Rain Down the Drain

Environmental Health and Safety actively works with many student groups, faculty, staff, and visitors to educate the public on the importance of stormwater. EHS is present at events such as Earth Day, Campus Sustainability Day, Texas Recycles Day among many other events throughout the year. EHS conducts biannual inspections of the storm system and outfalls within our MS4. Construction at Texas A&M must abide by guidelines set forth by TCEQ as well as the SWMP established by Texas A&M. Construction sites are inspected every two weeks to ensure contractors are following permitted guidelines. As part of a continuous effort in sustainable growth, EHS sponsors an Annual Stormwater Compliance Meeting to discuss the year's reports and findings and to learn what stakeholders are planning and developing for a master plan and growth of the university. In addition, EHS inspects services such as Transportation and hazardous waste storage for good housekeeping measures and compliance.

These efforts have had a profound impact on development of stormwater controls and planning for Texas A&M over the past decade. A priority is controlling stormwater by means of detention or slowing down runoff to reduce or eliminate erosion. Sediment is the greatest pollutant of stormwater.

Many practices have proven prudent through their uses and have thus become the norm or common requirement here at Texas A&M. Stormwater protection and control are two vital components in controlling the impact that our MS4 will have on surrounding communities. These key requirements of Texas A&M's SWMP are an essential part of the university's efforts to preserve the campus for future Aggies.

For more information concerning stormwater you can visit EPA's EPA-NPDES Program website or Texas Cooperative Extension's stormwater information at Texas Water. You may also visit the combined community efforts of TxDot, Cities of Bryan and College Station, Brazos County and Texas A&M at Brazos Clean Water.

Texas A&M's SWMP is available by contacting Monica Hartman or on Facebook.