Illegal Connection/Illicit Discharge (IC/ID) Inspections
NPDES Stormwater Training
Preventing Unauthorized Discharges to the Municipal Storm Drain System

Training provided to municipal staff responsible for illegal discharge detection, investigation, response, and enforcement activities focuses on the following:

1. Regulatory framework and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requirements related to illicit connections and illegal discharges
2. Impacts that illicit connections and illegal discharges can have on storm drain systems, receiving waters, and public health
3. General categories of pollutants commonly associated with illicit connections
   a. Sewage
   b. Oil & Grease
   c. Chemicals
   d. Paints & Solvents
   e. Sediment
   f. Trash
   g. Wash Water
   h. Nutrients
   i. Pathogens
4. Best Management Practices (BMPs) and response procedures that should be implemented to identify, prevent, contain, and eliminate illicit discharges
   a. Source Identification
   b. Spill Response
   c. Good Housekeeping Practices
   d. Employee Training
   e. Inlet Protection
   f. Reporting Procedures
   g. Investigation & Enforcement
   h. Public Education

Core messages are provided below to highlight the key concepts and responsibilities that staff should understand to support effective implementation of MS4 permit requirements.

Message I: An illegal discharge is any non-stormwater discharge into the MS4 that is not specifically authorized. Illegal dumping into storm drains is prohibited.

Message II: Staining, odors, unusual flow, or other indicators observed during dry weather may indicate an illegal discharge.

Message III: Suspected illegal discharges should be documented and reported in accordance with agency procedures.

Message IV: Certain non-stormwater discharges, such as potable water line flushing, may be allowable when properly managed and authorized.

Message V: Employee education and awareness are critical components of illegal discharge prevention.

Message VI: Routine inspections, reporting procedures, and public awareness efforts help prevent illicit connections and illegal discharges.