



## PREVENTION BEATS POLLUTION | MARCH 25, 2022

This webinar is to provide guidance to both seasoned and new contractors. Learn to recognize common construction pollution. Attendees will learn how to apply stormwater BMPs on sites of all sizes. Learn prevention and response tips from the inside.

### WEBINAR QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

#### **Should you ever put N/A for Element 9 of the SWPPP?**

Answer: No, there is never a case where there are no pollutants on a construction site.

#### **What if my product says it's Biodegradable, is that still a pollutant?**

Answer: Yes, even if the label states biodegradable it may not be truly biodegradable and can harm the stormwater system. A project was fined by the U.S. Coast Guard for vegetable oil in a water body from a pile driver. Another example is pouring simple green as a polishing substance on the sidewalk is considered a spill.

#### **How do you know when to report a spill?**

Answer: Depends on where the project is located in Washington. Regulations vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Always, report a spill that reaches the stormwater system including catch basin, manhole, drywell, and private facility (swale or pond) or any waterbody. Report to the Washington Department of Ecology. They will notify the jurisdictions required to respond. If you are unsure if the spill should be reported, report the spill, there is no harm in reporting too small of a spill.

[Statewide reporting form ERTS - Washington State Department of Ecology](#)

#### **Do you have any suggestions for how to work collaboratively with contractors on-site?**

Answer: Build a relationship with the contractor's project superintendents and foreman. Be friendly and talk with equipment operators when on site. Take time to get to know the people on site. Talk about the issue on-site for both the inspector and contractor.

#### **Do you recommend contractors review their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) during all phases of a project and how to engage with the inspector?**

Answer: Yes, contractors should be aware of their Stormwater Management Plan for the project. This is the plan that identifies the BMPs which will change throughout the project. For example, grading project works with soils and dirt. Later storm drains and stormwater facilities are installed. The plan needs to adjust as the project changes for example when things don't work like infiltration during rain. Be flexible, and document stormwater management for changing site conditions. Handwritten notes are encouraged to match site conditions for all managing stormwater on the project site.

Remember the SWPPP is a living document that needs to be updated anytime changes are made on site. Contractors should include stormwater management topics (i.e. silt fence) when talking with the crew and subcontractors.