
BULLETIN 2000-050-EV

Revised July 22, 2015

FUEL DISPENSING

Storm water and runoff from service stations and other fuel dispensing operations may contain flammable liquids and other contaminants. While most owners and operators of service stations and fuel dispensing operations are careful, accidents can occur and spills of flammable liquids may enter the sewer system. Flammable liquids can create explosive conditions in our sewers and must not be allowed to enter any drains, plumbing fixtures or any part of the sewer system at any time. Most outside drains are connected to the storm sewer system and storm sewers are connected to the nearest body of water where contaminants can be toxic to fish and the environment.

Best Management Practices

The amount of flammable liquids entering the sewer system from your operation can be reduced by following best management practices including but not limited to;

- Establish operating and maintenance procedures that will prevent the escape of flammable and combustible liquids.
- Storm drains in the fuel storage and fuel dispensing areas must be connected to an emergency spill sump as described in the Section 5.1(1) of the Sewer and Watercourse By-law No. 8093. Emergency spill sumps are to be designed and installed such that 1,000 litres of the spill can be trapped. The outlet pipe of the emergency spill sump shall be designed so that it can be capped off in the event of an emergency to prevent the escape of flammable liquids to the sewer. For details, contact the Environmental Protection Branch at 3-1-1, 604 873-7000 or at environmentalprotection@vancouver.ca.
- When flammable liquids enter sumps or catch basins, they must be cleaned out immediately.
- Flammable liquids shall be stored and dispensed in accordance with the Vancouver Fire By-law.
- The liquid level in storage tanks shall be measured in accordance with the Vancouver Fire By-law and the Sewer and Watercourse By-law. When liquid measurements show a gain in water or a loss of a flammable liquid, immediate corrective action shall be taken which may include replacement of the leaking components or the leaking tank. A permit from the Fire Department shall be obtained to replace, remove, or abandon any underground storage tank.

- Water removed from storage tanks containing flammable or combustible liquids shall not be discharged into any sewer.

Spills

All reasonable steps shall be taken to recover escaped liquids. Spills may be cleaned up using absorbents and disposed of in an acceptable manner. Catch basins and spill sumps must be cleaned out immediately after a spill. If spills create a fire hazard, notify the Fire Department immediately at 9-1-1. If flammable

or combustible spills enter the sewer system, notify the Environmental Protection Branch immediately at 3-1-1 or 604-873-7000 and/or the provincial Emergency Coordination Centre at 1-800-663-3456.

Enforcement

Section 3.2(1) of the Sewer and Watercourse By-law No. 8093 states that, “No person shall cause or permit contaminated water or wastewater to be discharged to a storm sewer”. Violators are subject to fines of up to \$10,000 per offence.

For further information contact the Environmental Protection Branch at 3-1-1, 604-873-7000 or at environmentalprotection@vancouver.ca.

(Original signed by)

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