
BULLETIN 2002-004-EV

Revised September 4, 2015

FILMING AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Improper waste and wastewater disposal practices at filming locations and special events may be sources of contaminants in stormwater runoff and may affect receiving water quality. Catering trucks, mobile dressing rooms, and the construction of sets, props, and stages may generate wastes that include blackwater, graywater, waste greases, paint wastes and wash water. If these wastes are poured onto the ground, onto City streets or into catch basins these wastes may enter the City's storm sewer system. Storm sewers are connected to the nearest body of water where these contaminants may be toxic to fish and the environment.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The amount of contaminants entering the storm sewer system from filming locations and special events can be reduced by following best management practices including but not limited to:

1. All toilets, showers and sinks in recreational vehicles, mobile dressing rooms and catering trucks must be connected to a holding tank located on the vehicle and all wastewater generated from these vehicles must be discharged into the holding tank. Holding tanks are to be discharged at an approved sanitary dump site, which is connected to the sanitary sewer system. Holding tanks must not be discharged onto land or into the storm sewer system.
2. Vehicle washing must be done at an approved facility where the wash water is collected and treated for the removal of sediments, oils and greases prior to discharge to the sanitary sewer. Vehicles may not be washed on City streets.
3. Waste greases and oils generated from food preparation on catering trucks must be collected and taken to a waste grease recycling company. Waste greases may not be discharged to any sewer. Food wastes are to be collected and stored for disposal and composting.
4. Waste water containing fats, oils and grease from food preparation must be discharged to holding tanks. Holding tanks are to be discharged to a suitably sized grease interceptor connected to the sanitary sewer. More information can be found in the Food Sector Grease Interceptor Bylaw and the City of Vancouver bulletin; Grease Interceptors at Food Sector Establishments, 2014-001-PL/EV.
5. Where sets, props and stages are constructed or painted on site, waste paint and paint washings from the cleaning of brushes and other equipment must not be discharged to the storm sewer system. Waste paints and solvent may not be discharged to any sewer under any conditions and should be taken to an approved disposal or recycling facility. Further information can be found in the City of Vancouver bulletin; Painting Contractors, 2000-051-EV.
6. Any materials that are used for special effects that might adversely affect the sewer system or is considered to be a deleterious substance under the Fisheries Act shall not be discharged to or

allowed to enter the sewer system. If hazardous materials or flammable liquids are used for special effects in the vicinity of catch basins or storm drains, the drains must be protected to prevent the materials and liquids from entering them or any other fixture that is connected to the sewer system. Any residual materials resulting from special effects at filming locations must be cleaned up immediately.

7. Any other wastes generated at filming locations or special events must be handled or stored in a manner that will prevent contaminants from entering the storm sewer system.

SPILLS

Any spills that occur must be cleaned up immediately. Spills of flammable liquids, paint, waste greases or other prohibited materials that enter the sewer system must be reported immediately to the Environmental Protection Branch at 604-873-7000 or 311. If spills create a fire hazard or an immediate health hazard notify the Vancouver Fire Department immediately at 911.

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 the storm sewer.” Violators are subject to fines of up to \$10,000 per offence.

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

(Original signed by)

D. Robertson
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SEWER & DRAINAGE DESIGN BRANCH
ENGINEERING SERVICES