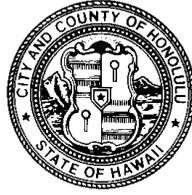


KIRK CALDWELL  
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Handling of Fire Department Training and Fire Sprinkler System Discharges**

#### **Background**

The NPDES Permit issued by the State Department of Health (DOH) to the City and County of Honolulu for its municipal separate storm sewer system provides in pertinent part as follows:

*“2. The following non-storm water discharges may be discharged into the Permittee's separate storm sewer system without an NPDES permit, provided that the Permittee determines that such discharges will not contain pollutants in amounts that will cause or contribute to a violation of an applicable water quality standard and the [Storm Water Management Program] SWMP shall identify and ensure the implementation of appropriate pollution prevention measures for the non-storm water component(s) of the discharge.”*

*“s. Discharges or flows from fire fighting activities.”*

*“3. The discharge of pollutants from the Permittee's MS4 [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System] shall be reduced to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP).”*

#### **Handling Procedure**

DFM acknowledges that the discharge related to fire department training is necessary to ensure the workability of fire hydrant(s) and to assist in training fire fighters in their fire fighting duties. DFM also acknowledges that the discharge related to testing fire sprinkler systems is necessary to ensure the workability of the systems in the event of a fire. Therefore, no effluent discharge permit is required.

However, before any discharge enters municipal separate storm sewer systems, appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be used to reduce pollution associated with non-storm water discharges, to the "maximum extent practicable" (MEP).

The following handling procedures are listed for guidance purposes only where they are deemed applicable. However, the discharger should use appropriate BMPs and be responsible for complying with City, State, and Federal rules and regulations. For more information, please call the Storm Water Quality (SWQ) Branch of DFM at 768-3268.

- For discharges associated with the fire sprinkler testing into the City drainage system, they should be filtered through geotextile filter until the discharge becomes clear. Constant visual inspection for debris and other basic water quality parameters should be conducted. Filter fabric should be changed periodically when discharge effluent color changes. Filtered residue and fabric should be disposed of through acceptable means. If the treatment system does not work, then the discharge shall be terminated until an appropriate treatment system is in place. If the effluent passes visual tests, then it may be discharged into the City's separate storm sewer system. For more information, please call the Storm Water Quality Branch of DFM at 768-3268.
- If the effluent does not pass the visual test, it can be treated as industrial waste and may be discharged into the City's sanitary sewer system with the approval of the Regulatory Control (RC) Branch of Environmental Services ("ENV"). Accordingly, an Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit (IWDP) from the ENV is required. Applications for IWDPs are available at Kapolei Hale, 1000 Uluohia Street, Suite 212, Kapolei. For more information, please call RC Branch of ENV at 768-3261, 768-3263, 768-3271, or 768-3272.
- If there is no storm drain system nearby and discharge on lot and street will create a nuisance or hazardous condition, the effluent may be discharged into the sanitary sewer system with the approval of the RC Branch of ENV. Accordingly, an IWDP from the ENV is required.