



**Standard Operating Procedure:
Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers**

Date: 2024/05/01

Version: 1

Review Frequency: Annual

Reasons for Procedure

Montgomery County (County) has a permit to operate a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VAR040134). Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has entered into an agreement to meet certain responsibilities under the permit. This permit authorizes the County to discharge stormwater pursuant to the Virginia Stormwater Management Program and the Virginia Stormwater Management Act.

1.0 Purpose

1.1 To ensure proper application, storage, transport, and disposal of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on County property.

2.0 Scope

These procedures apply to anyone who applies or handles pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers on County property.

3.0 Responsibility

All County and MCPS staff are responsible for preventing illicit discharges from their operations.

3.1 Managers and Supervisors

All supervisors are responsible for reviewing this policy with all employees or hired contractors.

3.2 Personnel Performing the Activities

Staff and contractors must follow the procedures described in this SOP when working with pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers.

3.3 Safety Data Sheets

Material Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) shall be kept in an accessible location for staff and reviewed during training.

4.0 Procedures

4.1 Pesticides

- 4.1.1 All pesticides are required to be stored out of the weather and transported underneath a cover such that these materials cannot be exposed to stormwater while in storage.
- 4.1.2 Any pesticide applicators working on County property must follow manufacturer directions for use when applying pesticides.
- 4.1.3 Minimize disposal requirements by mixing up only enough pesticide for the job. Consider contacting other staff to determine if other areas require pesticide application. Contact the New River Resource Authority (NRRRA) and Montgomery County Regional Solid Waste Authority (MRSWA) for hazardous waste collection options. Contact the state Hazardous Waste Compliance Coordinator at 804-912-7366 with any questions.

4.2 Herbicides

- 4.2.1 All herbicides are required to be stored out of the weather and transported underneath a cover such that these materials cannot be exposed to stormwater while in storage.
- 4.2.2 Any herbicide applicators working on County property must follow manufacturer recommendations when applying herbicides.
- 4.2.3 Minimize disposal requirements by mixing up only enough herbicide for the job. Consider contacting other staff to determine if other areas require herbicide application. Contact the New River Resource Authority (NRRRA) and Montgomery County Regional Solid Waste Authority (MRSWA) for hazardous waste collection options. Contact the state Hazardous Waste Compliance Coordinator at 804-912-7366 with any questions.

4.3 Fertilizers

- 4.3.1 All fertilizers are required to be stored out of the weather and transported underneath a cover such that these materials cannot be exposed to stormwater while in storage.
- 4.3.2 Any fertilizer applicators working on County property must follow manufacturer directions for use when applying fertilizer. Application of fertilizer must be done in compliance with the most recent approved Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) on applicable sites. Review the latest NMPs on the County Stormwater page.
- 4.3.3 Contact the New River Resource Authority (NRRRA) and Montgomery County Regional Solid Waste Authority (MRSWA) for hazardous waste collection options. Consider contacting other staff to determine if other areas require fertilizer application. Contact the state Hazardous Waste Compliance Coordinator at 804-912-7366 with any questions.

5.0 Review of Procedure/Training

Supervisors are responsible for coordinating with the County Stormwater Specialist at 540-394-2090 or the MCPS Environmental and Maintenance Program Manager at 540-382-5141 to review this procedure with all employees who have these job duties at least once every 24 months and with any questions regarding this SOP.

6.0 Regulatory Impacts

6.1 Stormwater Regulations

Improper handling of materials such as pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can cause negative impacts to local waterways and has the potential to cause Illicit discharges, which are prohibited by the County's MS4 permit. This offense is punishable by civil and criminal penalties as illicit discharges constitute a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare, and are deemed public nuisances.

*Printed versions of SOPs with previous review dates are considered current as long as the version number is the same as the current version. Current versions of all SOPs are maintained on the County Stormwater Resources website.