Sanitary/Septic Waste Management

Description and Purpose
Proper sanitary and septic waste management prevent the discharge of pollutants to stormwater from sanitary and septic waste by providing convenient, well-maintained facilities, and arranging for regular service and disposal.

Suitable Applications
Sanitary septic waste management practices are suitable for use at all construction sites that use temporary or portable sanitary and septic waste systems.

Limitations
None identified.

Implementation
Sanitary or septic wastes should be treated or disposed of in accordance with state and local requirements. In many cases, one contract with a local facility supplier will be all that it takes to make sure sanitary wastes are properly disposed.

Storage and Disposal Procedures
- Temporary sanitary facilities should be located away from drainage facilities, watercourses, and from traffic circulation. If site conditions allow, place portable facilities a minimum of 50 feet from drainage conveyances and traffic areas. When subjected to high winds or risk of high winds, temporary sanitary facilities should be secured to prevent overturning.
Temporary sanitary facilities must be equipped with containment to prevent discharge of pollutants to the stormwater drainage system of the receiving water.

Consider safety as well as environmental implications before placing temporary sanitary facilities.

Wastewater should not be discharged or buried within the project site.

Sanitary and septic systems that discharge directly into sanitary sewer systems, where permissible, should comply with the local health agency, city, county, and sewer district requirements.

Only reputable, licensed sanitary and septic waste haulers should be used.

Sanitary facilities should be located in a convenient location.

Temporary septic systems should treat wastes to appropriate levels before discharging.

If using an onsite disposal system (OSDS), such as a septic system, local health agency requirements must be followed.

Temporary sanitary facilities that discharge to the sanitary sewer system should be properly connected to avoid illicit discharges.

Sanitary and septic facilities should be maintained in good working order by a licensed service.

Regular waste collection by a licensed hauler should be arranged before facilities overflow.

If a spill does occur from a temporary sanitary facility, follow federal, state and local regulations for containment and clean-up.

Education

Educate employees, subcontractors, and suppliers on sanitary and septic waste storage and disposal procedures.

Educate employees, subcontractors, and suppliers of potential dangers to humans and the environment from sanitary and septic wastes.

Instruct employees, subcontractors, and suppliers in identification of sanitary and septic waste.

Hold regular meetings to discuss and reinforce the use of sanitary facilities (incorporate into regular safety meetings).

Establish a continuing education program to indoctrinate new employees.

Costs

All of the above are low cost measures.
Inspection and Maintenance

- BMPs must be inspected in accordance with General Permit requirements for the associated project type and risk level. It is recommended that at a minimum, BMPs be inspected weekly, prior to forecasted rain events, daily during extended rain events, and after the conclusion of rain events.

- Arrange for regular waste collection.

- If high winds are expected, portable sanitary facilities must be secured with spikes or weighed down to prevent over turning.

- If spills or leaks from sanitary or septic facilities occur that are not contained and discharge from the site, non-visible sampling of site discharge may be required. Refer to the General Permit or to your project specific Construction Site Monitoring Plan to determine if and where sampling is required.

References
