Reasons for Procedure

The University of Virginia (UVA) has a permit to operate a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. This permit authorizes UVA to discharge stormwater pursuant to the Virginia Stormwater Management Program and the Virginia Stormwater Management Act.

Since storm drain systems are not connected to a sanitary sewer treatment plant, water traveling through the storm drain system flows directly to local streams, rivers and lakes untreated. An illicit discharge to the storm system is generally defined as any discharge that is not composed entirely of stormwater. UVA’s MS4 Program “shall include all procedures developed by the operator to detect, identify, and address nonstormwater discharges to the MS4.”

1.0 Purpose

Water containing concrete and other masonry materials is caustic with a pH of approximately 12 and contains a high concentration of solids. This SOP has been written to keep concrete, joint compound, limes, cement, plaster, and other masonry materials used by Facilities Management from entering the storm sewers and local streams.

2.0 Scope

This procedure applies to the storage, handling, and use of concrete and masonry materials by FM Personnel.

3.0 Responsibility

3.1 Facilities Management Environmental Resources

   Environmental Resources is responsible for working with staff to keep this policy up to date and revised as needed.

3.2 Managers and Supervisors

   Managers and supervisors of those shops that use these materials must provide training to the employees who will be handling, washing tools, and disposing unused masonry waste. Managers and supervisors are responsible for ensuring training is conducted with the most recent version of the SOP.

3.3 Personnel Performing the Job

   Personnel must follow the correct procedures in accordance with this SOP.
4.0 Procedures

4.1 Facilities personnel are responsible for the proper temporary storage of all concrete and related materials until it will be used.

4.2 Bags of concrete, limes, plaster, joint compounds, etc. must be stored either an indoor storage area or if stored outside protected from contact with water.

4.3 In the event the bag is punctured or saturated and becomes wet it can leach into the ground or storm drain and therefore result in an illicit discharge. Any loose material must be cleaned up immediately and disposed of properly.

4.4 Concrete that has been mixed and has hardened can be disposed of in general trash. Unused wet concrete inside of a container must be allowed to harden by placing it in an indoor storage area or a protected outdoor location. When completely hardened it can be disposed of in general trash.

4.5 Water used for cleaning of tools and other equipment must be captured in a container which will allow the mixture to harden and the liquid to evaporate. The hardened material can then be disposed of in the regular trash dumpster.

5.0 Annual Review of Procedure/Training

Managers are responsible for reviewing this procedure with all employees who have these job duties at least once each year.

6.0 Regulatory impacts

Water containing cement, limes, plaster, joint compound or other related building products is considered an illicit discharge if it is allowed to enter the storm sewer system. Any discharge into UVA’s storm system also impacts the City’s storm sewer system. 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 UVA Environmental Resources website.