

FORT SILL QUARTERLY ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015



This newsletter provides helpful household and unit tips for protecting the environment and complying with environmental laws and regulations.

Stormwater

Environmental problems evolve slowly and tend to sneak up on us with damage usually being done before we realize anything is wrong. It is hard for us to imagine that a drip of oil or a bit of dirt will harm our water supply, but even small amounts can pollute a vast amount of water. One quart of oil can contaminate up to 2 million gallons of water. Tasks you perform daily may have a potential impact on what is washed down the storm drain. Fort Sill's drainage system includes catch

basins, storm sewers, creeks, ponds, lakes, ditches, natural low areas and drainage features to accommodate stormwater run-off. Inside the cantonment area, there are 12 major stormwater outfalls and they all have been strained this year with these record setting rains. All of these outfalls discharge into either Medicine Creek, Sitting Bear Creek, Wolf Creek or a tributary of East Cache Creek.

In addition to accommodating the quantity of stormwater run-off, the stormwater drainage system also serves an important water quality function. The stormwater drainage system can remove significant amounts of natural and

man-made pollutants. Fort Sill continues to implement a number of practices to improve stormwater quality. However, the first step in increasing the quality of stormwater run-off begins with you; and that is the purpose of this newsletter. We want you to be aware of potential problems and show that indeed one person can make a difference.

Remember, the key to decreasing pollution often begins right in your own back yard, and Fort Sill is our back yard.

Methods to Reduce Stormwater Runoff and Contamination



Most of us have a good working knowledge of common pollution prevention techniques outside the home such as vehicle maintenance, vehicle washings, lawn maintenance, vehicle leaks, etc. etc., but here are some uncommon potential problems that also need to be recognized

First, storm drains. Take a few seconds and familiarize yourself as to the locations of the storm drains. All

street grate drains flows directly into the storm water system. Should an accident happen, you can block the flow of the contaminants from literally going down the drain. At that point, call the Fire Department if the materials are hazardous. If it is from a leaking vehicle, simply put some absorbent down and then sweep it up and put into the trash cans. No liquid type of waste

is allowed at the Fort Sill landfill, only solid material. Under no circumstances should you dump any material down the storm drain or hose it down. Dilution is not the solution to pollution.

Second, trash cans. You'd be surprised at the amount of contaminants that end up in your trash cans. Do not rinse them out and dump the water down the drain. If they are stored outside, keep the lids closed and covered as much as possible.

Third, Consider alternatives to toxic substances. Common toxic substances found in the home are cleaners, automotive products, and pesticides. Other common hazardous substances that are found in homes are fertilizers, paints, and fuels. Using alternative products instead of toxic substances drastically reduces the presence of toxics in stormwater and receiving waters. In some instances, the safer alternatives are cheaper, work better than their hazardous counterparts and are generally healthier for you.

For further information about compliance with environmental laws / regulations please contact Environmental Quality Division, DPW, 580-442-3266.

Only Rain Down the Storm Drain