

FORT SILL QUARTERLY ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

Summer 2016



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

Storm Water

Fort Sill has three storm water permits as required by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ).

The first permit covers certain industrial activities that ODEQ views as significant for controlling storm water. This includes motor pools, landfills, the airfield and recycling centers. Within this permit, Fort Sill is

required to conduct annual inspections, analyze water samples, create an individual storm water plan at each location and submit an annual report to ODEQ.

The second permit is the multi sector separate storm sewer (MS4) program. This program was designed to cover all other storm water discharges that weren't considered industrial areas. This permit also covers all housing areas within Fort Sill. As part of this program, a storm water plan must be created annually and address six

minimum control measures set forth by ODEQ. An annual report is submitted to ODEQ for their review that addresses the control measures. Since the privatization of the housing areas, Fort Sill requires Corvias Military Living to submit a storm water plan to address control measures within their control. The objective of this program is to

minimize the impacts of water quality from both urban and suburban areas. In these specific areas, much of the land surface is covered by buildings and pavement, which does not allow rain to soak into the ground. Instead, most developed areas rely on storm drains to carry large amounts of runoff from roofs and paved areas to nearby waterways. As storm water flows over these areas, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants which then flows untreated into the waterbodies that are used for swimming, fishing and sometimes, drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water quality. The porous and varied terrain of natural landscapes like forests, wetlands and grasslands traps rainwater and allows it

to be filtered slowly into the ground and recycled naturally. The loss of infiltration from urbanization may also cause profound groundwater changes. Although urbanization leads to great increases in flooding during and immediately after wet weather,

it may also result in lower stream flows during dry weather. Many native fish and other aquatic life cannot survive when these

conditions prevail. Urbanization increases the variety and amount of pollutants carried into streams, rivers, and lakes.

Finally, ODEQ also requires a storm water permit for any construction project larger than one acre. This permit specifically requires that a plan be written that is tailored to the construction site and activity along with weekly in-house inspections. Upon completion of the project, ODEQ must inspect the site and ensure that all storm water practices have been carried out and other specific conditions listed in the permit have been followed.

The three different types of storm water permits are designed to protect against pollution of our waterways. They will only work if all Fort Sill personnel actively participate in improving storm water quality.

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

Only Rain Down the Storm Drain