



## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers	
Date:	July 31, 2015
Purpose of SOP:	To establish standard, consistent stormwater pollution prevention procedures for the application, storage, transport, and disposal of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to prevent the discharge of pollutants related to these activities.
MS4 Permit Reference	Section II.B.6.a
Responsible Party	Robert B. Boxer, PE, Director of Public Works

Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers can become sources of pollution if improperly applied, stored, transported, or disposed. Fertilizers contribute to nutrient pollution. The Town of Herndon is subject to the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), which means that the Town must achieve specific nutrient reductions in accordance with its municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit. Pesticides and herbicides can be toxic to aquatic life in local streams and waterways. This SOP has been designed to minimize or prevent pollutant discharges from these activities.

### 1) Responsible Parties

- a) Town Staff. Grounds Maintenance within the Department of Public Works is responsible for most activities involving pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Centennial Golf Course staff are responsible for these activities on golf course property.
- b) Contractors. This SOP must be adopted by reference or otherwise incorporated into all contracting agreements dealing with pesticide, herbicide, and fertilizer application, storage, transport, or disposal. The requirements of this SOP will be discussed with contractors in project contract discussions or other appropriate venues to ensure a complete understanding of the details of this SOP.

### 2) Pesticides and Herbicides

- a) Application and Training. All staff who apply pesticides or herbicides to Town-owned property will receive proper training/certification in accordance with the Virginia Pest Control Act (§3.2-3900 *et seq* of the Code of Virginia). Training/certification will be documented at least annually in the Town's MS4 Program Plan annual report to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

- b) Contractors. All contract applicators who apply pesticides or herbicides to Town-owned property will likewise agree through contract language or otherwise provide written certification that proper training and certification in accordance with the Virginia Pest Control Act has been obtained. Contractors will provide documentation on request.
- c) Safety Data Sheets: Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) will be maintained for all relevant materials stored or used on-site. SDSs will be readily available for all personnel on-site to review.
- d) Use Minimization and Targeting.
  - i. Use manual and/or mechanical methods for weed and pest control or vegetation removal wherever possible rather than chemical methods.
  - ii. When chemicals are required, use the least toxic method to control animal or plant pests. This may include, but is not limited to, pheromone-based traps and sticky paper.
  - iii. When chemicals are used, use the most biodegradable product that will accomplish the desired goal.
  - iv. When possible, limit the application to the problem area and spot spray on infested areas only.
  - v. Designate a no-spray zone, preferably 50 feet or more, around water features.
  - vi. Contact the Fairfax County office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension for more information on Integrated Pest Management at <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/fairfax/> or (703) 324-5369.

### 3) Fertilizers

- a) Application and Training. Fertilizers at the following facilities, after the specific dates noted, will only be applied in accordance with the approved nutrient management plan (NMP). This applies to Town staff and all contractors.

Facility	Location	Year
Centennial Golf Course	909 Ferndale Avenue	FY2015
Bready Park	814 Ferndale Avenue	FY2017
Haley M. Smith Park	324 Van Buren Street	FY2018

### 4) General Practices

- a) Manufacturer's Recommendations. Follow all manufacturer's recommendations for mixing, applying, and handling pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers.
- b) Storage. All materials, whether liquid or dry, should be properly stored under cover when not in use.
  - i. Materials should be stored in an adequately ventilated and secured building to prevent unauthorized use or access.

- ii. Materials must be stored under cover and, where possible, within a secondary containment structure, such as a concrete secondary containment structure, spill pad, or similar structure.
  - iii. Keep materials properly covered and contained in tight fitting containers.
  - iv. Properly label all materials.
  - v. Keep materials as far away as possible from bay doors or other places where a spill could reach an area outside area.
- b) Mixing.
- i. Provide adequate containment when mixing materials. This includes an area with impervious surface and adequate perimeter control to prevent the discharge of pollutants in the event of a spill.
  - ii. All mixed material containers shall be labeled with the specific contents.
  - iii. Mix the minimum amount of material needed for the immediate job.
- c) Application.
- i. Time the application of materials to coincide with the manufacturer's recommendation for best results.
  - ii. Do not apply pesticides or herbicides during precipitation or if precipitation is expected. Do not apply before an irrigation cycle.
  - iii. Do not apply fertilizers when heavy rain that could cause significant runoff is anticipated.
  - iv. Do not apply when wind conditions could result in spray drift to waterbodies or areas not targeted for application.
  - v. If possible, limit the application of pesticides or herbicides to a specific problem area.
  - vi. Avoid applying materials in or near any drainage ditch, creek, pond, or seasonal streambed.
- d) Spills and Leaks. Spills and leaks should be cleaned up immediately.
- i. Dry clean-up methods should be used to clean up spilled material. This includes the use of absorbent pads, granular absorbent, booms, and similar measures.
  - ii. Waste sorbent material must be disposed of properly.
  - iii. Water should never be used to clean up spilled material.
  - iv. Wash down of pavement should not occur until all spills and leaks have been cleaned up.
- e) Clean-Up.
- i. Sweep pavement and sidewalks where fertilizers or other solid chemicals have fallen, sweep them onto grassy areas or collect and dispose of properly.
  - ii. Make sure all containers are properly labeled.
  - iii. Dispose of excess or left over chemicals according to instructions on the label and local waste regulations.
  - iv. Triple rinse all pesticide and herbicide containers prior to disposal.

- v. Never rinse pesticides in an area where it has the potential to enter the storm drain or be washed into a local water body.
- vi. Application equipment must be washed in a fully contained area that drains to a holding tank or a sanitary sewer.

## **5) Training**

This SOP will be incorporated into annual training for applicable employees in accordance with the Town's MS4 Program Plan that involve the application, storage, transport, or disposal of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers. Documentation of the training, including sign-in sheets and materials used, will be included in the Town's MS4 annual reports.