

UC Davis Policy and Procedure Manual

Chapter 290, Health and Safety Services

Section 35, Environmental Protection

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Responsible Department: Environmental Health and Safety

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I. Purpose

- A. This section outlines the policy and procedures related to environmental protection of air, water, and soil that are administered through the Office of Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) and the Utilities Department.
 - 1. EH&S has primary responsibility for environmental protection through implementation of regulations associated with the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and use of hazardous materials and disposal of hazardous wastes.
 - 2. The Utilities Department manages campus water supply, wastewater treatment plant, and closed solid waste landfill. This section also defines the responsibilities of the various additional units whose actions have the potential to affect these aspects of environmental protection.
- B. This section does not apply to environmental protection, regulation, and permitting associated with other laws and programs such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Endangered Species Act, cultural resource regulations, land use planning, and various aspects of transportation planning. These environmental activities are administered by the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability.

II. Policy

UC Davis acts as a steward of environmental resources and takes proactive measures to protect the environment and comply with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations; and investigates suspected contaminant releases to air, water, or soil and to remediate such releases when necessary to protect public health and the environment.

III. Scope

EH&S provides specialized services to the campus in the area of environmental protection. Programs administered through EH&S, the Utilities Department and other campus units that potentially affect the environment include:

- A. Air emissions
 - 1. To comply with rules and regulations, the campus must obtain permits and provide reports to local Air Quality Management Districts (AQMD's) and the California Air Resources Board for air emission sources and toxic air contaminants.
 - 2. Many stationary and mobile sources of air emissions must be permitted by the AQMD's. Examples of equipment requiring permits are furnaces, boilers, process heaters, cooling towers, dust collectors, storage tanks, certain generators, and air pollution control devices.
- B. Domestic water supply
 - 1. The Utilities Department operates domestic water wells to provide the campus with a safe, reliable supply of drinking water that is sampled routinely to ensure compliance with State and Federal drinking water standards.
 - 2. The domestic water system is permitted by the State Water Resources Control Board.

C. Due diligence

The University performs Phase I Environmental Assessments (due diligence) for construction projects or acquisition/leasing of property that are designed to make a determination of the environmental risks associated with a potential project or acquisition and to recommend further work, such as environmental sampling, when necessary.

D. Environmental Compliance Assurance for Federally funded research

EH&S provides documentation verifying that various facilities and research programs are in compliance with environmental regulations as required for specific grant application packages.

E. Environmental monitoring

In compliance with permits or regulatory requirements, various campus units perform routine environmental monitoring of air or water.

F. Environmental releases

Any releases or spills must immediately be reported to EH&S, which will determine the appropriate response and notification actions.

G. Environmental remediation

When contamination of the environment is found, the University, with regulatory agency oversight, investigates the nature and extent of impacts, evaluates potential remedies, and takes appropriate remedial action.

H. Hazardous materials management

1. Federal and State laws and regulations require the University to properly document and store hazardous materials on campus.
2. Additionally, the University is required to disclose information about hazardous materials management to regulatory agencies and the public (see also Section 290-65).

I. Hazardous waste management

Chemical, radiological, and medical wastes are managed in accordance with Federal, State, local, and UC Davis requirements (see Section 290-65).

J. Laboratory for Energy-related Health Research (LEHR) Superfund Site cleanup

EH&S manages activities undertaken to comply with Federal Orders to investigate and remediate releases of pollutants from both the Department of Energy areas of the former LEHR and from historic campus landfills located at the LEHR Site on south campus. A Land Use Covenant recorded in 2014 restricts land-use of the DOE areas and requires EH&S oversight and approval of ground disturbing activities in these areas.

K. Sanitary sewer discharges

1. Discharges to the sanitary sewer are regulated by the campus wastewater treatment plant pretreatment (Local Limits) program (http://utilities.ucdavis.edu/sewer_disposal/index.html).
2. The pretreatment program provides narrative and numerical limits for constituents of concern.

L. Stormwater discharges

1. Industrial operations on campus are required to operate in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for industrial activity (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/industrial.shtml).

2. Construction projects disturbing more than one acre must obtain coverage under the NPDES General Construction Permit (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml) prior to breaking ground.
 3. Smaller construction projects and municipal operations are permitted under the general Phase II Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml).
 4. Each permit requires implementation of plans to minimize and monitor pollutant discharges and eliminate illicit non-storm water discharges.
 5. Irrigated agricultural acreage on campus is subject to the requirements to Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) from the State Water Resources Control Board. The WDR requires monitoring and reporting on a regional basis on agricultural practices that may impact surface and groundwater.
- M. Sewer System Management Plan and Sanitary Sewer Overflow reporting
1. In accordance with a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Order, UC Davis implements a Sewer System Management Plan and schedule to properly manage, operate, and maintain all parts of the sanitary sewer system.
 2. Overflows from sanitary sewer systems of domestic, industrial, or commercial wastewater must be reported immediately to the campus Work Order Desk at (530) 752-1655.
- N. Solid waste
1. The campus operated a Class III municipal landfill that requires permits from State and local agencies that requires continued frequent monitoring and reporting of landfill conditions.
 2. The Utilities Department manages landfill closure requirements, and transports campus solid waste to the local county landfill.
- O. Storage tanks
1. Aboveground and underground tanks used for storage of hazardous materials or fuels must meet the California Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act requirements (<http://www.yolocounty.org/community-services/environmental-health-services/hazardous-materials/aboveground-storage-tank-program>), the California Underground Storage Tank Program requirements at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/ust/>, and meet state and local fire codes.
 2. Regulations require permits, adherence to construction standards, monitoring programs, tank and system integrity testing, guidelines for closure of tanks, cleanup of contamination, record keeping, and reporting.
- P. Wastewater discharges
1. Campus research facilities that produce wastewater must obtain a permit from the State Water Resources Control Board to discharge the water to land or state waterways.
 2. These permits establish minimum discharge requirements and require monitoring and reporting programs.
- Q. Wastewater treatment plant
1. The Utilities Department operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) that requires an NPDES permit and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) from the Central Valley

Regional Water Quality Control Board.

2. The permit and WDRs specify certain operating conditions for the WWTP, as well as monitoring and reporting requirements.

IV. Responsibilities

A. Departmental/unit responsibilities

1. Ensure that environmental laws, regulations, and UC Davis policies and procedures are followed.
2. Work with EH&S to obtain permits for the scope items listed above, and register vehicles and equipment when required.
3. Maintain compliance with all environmental permits and campus use authorizations.
4. Refer regulatory agency inquiries to EH&S.
5. Perform environmental monitoring, contract for laboratory analysis, and make reports as required by permits or regulations.
6. Seek consultation from EH&S about environmental requirements that apply to campus operations.
7. Provide training for employees in operational requirements pertaining to environmental protection and maintain records of such training.
8. Ensure that activities with potential for environmental impact are performed within approved operating procedures and that any required records are current.
9. Notify EH&S immediately at (530) 752-1493 of any environmental release or spill.
10. Fund directly or reimburse EH&S for the payment of abatement, regulatory agency permit fees, or compliance fees and associated compliance activity expenses. EH&S recharges for staff time spent on supporting compliance for capital projects and third party projects and facilities.
11. Eliminate non-stormwater discharges to the campus storm sewer system, except as authorized under the Phase II Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit.
12. Require vendors and contractors to minimize discharge of pollutants to the storm sewer system through installation, implementation, and maintenance of storm water best management practices.
13. Address uncontrolled sources of pollutants that could pose an environmental threat to surface water within 30 days of discovery.

B. EH&S responsibilities

1. Represent the University when dealing with regulatory agencies.
2. Assist campus units with preparation of environmental compliance plans, permits, and reports as mandated by laws, regulations, permits, licenses, and use authorizations.
3. Assure that reports are submitted to agencies on time and in compliance with applicable requirements.
4. Serve as office of record for environmental permits, except for those managed by the Utilities Department.
5. Coordinate the payments of fees with agencies and campus units.

6. Investigate reports of unplanned environmental releases and notify Federal, State, and local authorities in a timely manner, as required. Facilitate and direct abatement and clean-up of release or spill within 72 hours of discovery.
 7. Provide consultation and compliance support for relevant UCDHS programs/equipment.
- C. Employee responsibilities
1. Be fully aware of the environmental impact of activities and comply with all requirements that govern those activities.
 2. Refer regulatory agency inquiries to EH&S.
 3. Adhere to all environmental requirements contained in permits and standard operating procedures.
 4. Participate in energy conservation, recycling, and pollution prevention programs.
 5. Take immediate action to stop unplanned releases to the environment and report all instances of unplanned environmental releases to EH&S.
 6. Notify supervisor of conditions that have the potential to become environmental hazards and take appropriate preventive measures as directed.
 7. Complete all required training.

V. Further Information

For additional information, contact Environmental Health and Safety (530-752-1493; <http://safetyervices.ucdavis.edu/>).

VI. References and Related Policies

UC Office of the President: Policy on Management of Health, Safety and the Environment (<http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/3500506/MgmtHealthSafetyandEnvironment>).