

## Employee Training: Part 6

### **Agricultural Water Quality: Vehicles and Equipment**



Agricultural operations utilize a variety of vehicles and equipment in producing, harvesting and transporting crops. Certain aspects of vehicle fueling, maintenance, repair and washing can contribute to water quality degradation if care is not taken to avoid problems.

- **Vehicle and Equipment Fueling BMP's:**

- Prevent spills and leaking during fueling.
- Maintain a "spill kit" close to the area where fueling takes place. Report significant spills of fuel promptly.
- Protect stormdrains in areas near fueling.
- Fuel only in designated areas with spill precautions.

- **Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance and Repair BMP's:**

- Precautions should be taken to prevent spills during vehicle maintenance and repair.
- Keep a "spill kit" in the maintenance and repair area, and make sure the employees know how to use it. Report significant spills promptly.
- Protect stormdrains in the maintenance and repair areas.

- Perform maintenance and repair activities only within designated areas.
- Wet cleaning of maintenance and repair areas only if there is no danger of discharging wash water. Dry cleaning is preferred.
- Use drip pans or other containment during maintenance.
- If you store retired vehicles, drain them of all fluids.

- **Vehicles and Equipment Washing BMP's:**

- Do not allow washing in areas where there is direct access to the storm drains.
- Only wash vehicles and equipment in designated areas.
- If possible, plumb wash areas to sewer.
- Do not allow wash water from degreasing engines, mechanical parts or heavy equipment to infiltrate soil.
- Reduce or eliminate soaps and degreasers where possible.
- Use drip pans and other containment for equipment stored outdoors.
- Equipment stored outdoors should be bermed and covered where possible and practical.
- Spill kit maintained in outdoor equipment storage area, and employees should be trained in its use.

**Take a look around:** Washing vehicles and equipment is often overlooked as a pollutant source, since it is not really considered part of the growing operation. However, it can significantly contribute to water quality problems. All employees involved in equipment maintenance should be well informed of precautionary measures that will minimize pollution problems from vehicle and equipment management.