Materials Storage and Handling

Improper materials storage and handling has been identified as the number 4 most common deficiency on construction sites. Proper controls must be used to control materials from entering storm drains or watercourses. This bulletin reviews common challenges and recommends corrective actions to better manage the storage and handling of materials.

- Include BMPs to manage materials storage and handling that are specific to the project.
- The resident engineer is responsible for reviewing and approving the SWPPP.
- The SWPPP inspection checklist should be tailored to include specific questions to prompt the contractor to properly handle and store materials.

Secondary Containment Facilities
Construction sites often lack adequate secondary containment facilities.
- Liquids, petroleum products, and substances listed in CFR Title 40, Parts 110, 117, and 302 should be stored within secondary containment facilities.
- During the rainy season, each containment facility should have a cover to prevent overflows or loss of storage capacity.

Bagged and Boxed Material
Bagged and boxed material must also be properly stored.
- Store materials on pallets and do not allow them to accumulate on the ground.
- Protect from wind and rain during the rainy season and prior to predicted storm events.

Training
Training is absolutely required.
- SSP 07-346 requires that the contractor train employees and subcontractors on proper material storage and handling practices.
- The contractor is also required to conduct regular meetings to reinforce effective practices.

Effective Inspections
Inspections are most effective when conducted jointly by the contractor and Caltrans inspectors.
- Minimum inspection frequency is defined in the project specifications. Deficiencies should prompt corrective action and SWPPP amendment, if necessary. For example, if inspection shows the secondary containment area was constructed using material that is degraded by the stored material, then the secondary containment material should be replaced immediately.

Enforcement Procedures
If the contractor does not respond to requests for improvement in storing and handling materials, the resident engineer must prepare a mandatory non-compliance letter. If the contractor is not responsive, execute appropriate contract enforcement mechanisms to ensure that the contractor complies.