

# Mars Borough – MS4 Lunch & Learn

Public Works Good Housekeeping  
MCM-6  
May 4, 2021

# Some Key Abbreviations

**MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System** – A conveyance or system of conveyances (including roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, basins).

**BMP – Best Management Practice** – A method to prevent or reduce the pollution of the Waters of the State. Includes schedules of activities and prohibitions of practices, including treatment requirements and cleanup from spills and leaks.

**MCM – Minimum Control Measures** – Within the MS4 permit, there are six (6) MCM's. Today we are discussing MCM-6 (Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping).

**TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load** – Process established by the Environmental Protection Agency for allocation of pollutant loads to receiving waters

# How Did MS4 Start?

In December 2002, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) created the MS4 program to administer requirements for stormwater under the Federal Clean Water Act.

PADEP issued a General Permit for MS4 communities (PAG-13) for a 5-year period.

PAG-13 has subsequently been extended several times

# Components of MS4 Program

There are six minimum control measures (MCMs) associated with the MS4 Program

MCM-1 – Public Education and Outreach

MCM-2 – Public Involvement and Participation

MCM-3 – Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination

MCM-4 – Construction Site Runoff Control

MCM-5 – Post-Construction Stormwater Management In New Development

MCM-6 – Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping For Municipalities

# MCM-6 Importance to Mars Borough

By training employees to be alert and aware of conditions that could cause pollution, incidents can be prevented

It is important for Public Works to be the 'face of the Borough' and good public stewards

Mars has a TMDL of "Silt" for Breakneck Creek and must work to reduce it over a 5-year period

Mars DPW needs awareness during construction activities of erosion or during maintenance activities

# Other Pollutants For Awareness by DPW

**Used motor oil and grease** – Auto maintenance, construction, spills, illegal dumping

**Antifreeze, cleaners, solvents** – Auto maintenance, residential housekeeping, building and grounds maintenance, spills, illegal dumping

**Pet Waste** – Residential housekeeping, winds up spreading viruses and bacteria to waterways

**Landscaping Wastes** – Tree trimmings, grass, landscaping activities, home yard maintenance

**Sediment** – Especially important to Mars – erosion from construction sites, landscaping, building and ground maintenance

# Effects on Waterways

Clogs storm drains and causes localized flooding conditions

Costs taxpayers for clean up events

Impacts freshwater habitat of rivers and lakes

Contaminates and kills fish and other wildlife

# BMP's for Mars DPW

**Snow Removal**– If possible, review your salt application procedures to ensure not putting on too much

**Sweeping** – With proximity to Breakneck Creek, keep the sediment and silt swept up at the Borough office and parking lot

**Stockpiled Materials** – Protect salt, sand, dirt, gravel piles from rain/snow

**General Housekeeping** – Keep stored materials inside and on pallets

Check for oil and other fluid leaks. Keep oil absorbent pads and/or granular materials on hand

**Concrete Work** – Mix only what you need. Wash out excess concrete in designated areas – not storm basins or creeks

**Hydrant flushing** – Use a diffuser, avoid disrupting soils



# Spill Response Procedure

## Create a Standard Operating Procedure for all DPW

### Suggestions:

- Be safe with the spilled materials and use precautions
- Stop the source of the spill if you can do so safely
- Call 911 if fire or public safety issues are created
- Contain the spilled material – dirt, sand can be a temporary barrier
- Clean up the spilled material and dispose properly

# Questions?