Prohibition and Control of Discharging Contaminants into the Stormwater System

Policy Number	3-134
Responsible Authority:	Assistant Vice President, Utilities and Engineering Services Director, Environmental Health and Safety
Initiating Authority:	Vice President, Compliance, Ethics, and Risk Vice President, Administrative Operations and Chief Infrastructure Officer
Effective Date	7/18/2025
Date of Origin:	7/18/2025

APPLICABILITY/ACCOUNTABILITY

This policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, and visitors, Direct Support Organizations (DSO), and retail business operations on all University of Central Florida (UCF) campuses and leased facilities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) to regulate the discharge of pollutants into the waters of the United States. The NPDES program is a key component of the Clean Water Act, designed to prevent contamination of surface waters through a comprehensive permitting process.

Under the NPDES guidelines, institutions such as universities are required to implement measures that control the discharge of contaminants into stormwater systems. This requirement is particularly crucial because stormwater systems often discharge directly into local waterways without treatment, making them susceptible to pollution from various sources, including construction sites, landscaping activities, and improper disposal of hazardous materials.

As part of compliance with the NPDES program, this policy outlines the prohibition of discharging any pollutants into the university's stormwater system. The policy also establishes response and reporting procedures to ensure that the university’s stormwater discharges do not negatively impact local water quality.

By adhering to these guidelines, the university aims to protect the environment, ensure the health and safety of the campus community, and avoid potential penalties associated with non-

compliance. The university's commitment to sustainable practices and environmental stewardship underscores the importance of maintaining the integrity of its stormwater management system in line with federal and state regulations.

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy establishes requirements to prohibit and control discharge of contaminants to surface waters at any UCF-owned, -operated, -leased, or -affiliated locations. UCF manages a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) and must comply with Phase II of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program. UCF's MS4 is the system of conveyances that collect or direct stormwater to surface waters of the state. This includes underground pipes, catch basins, ponds, curbs, gutters, ditches, constructed channels, storm drains, and roads with stormwater systems. These systems are meant only for stormwater and are not part of a combined sewer or water treatment system.

Students, faculty, staff, and visitors, Direct Support Organizations (DSO), and retail business operations on all University of Central Florida campuses and leased facilities:

1. Must not discharge any contaminant into the UCF stormwater system.
2. Must take appropriate actions to ensure that contaminants are not discharged in the course of activities related to their operations, or the operations of others.
3. Must report any observed illicit discharge to Environmental Health and Safety (EHS).

EHS and/or UES will respond to all reports of illicit discharge and take necessary actions to mitigate the effects of the discharge by directing cleanup operations and procuring outside resources if necessary.

DEFINITIONS

Contaminant. Any biological, chemical, physical, or radiological substance discharged in water, per the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Substance examples include:

Biological substance: organisms in water such as bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and parasites; also referred to as microbes or microbiological contaminants.

Chemical substance: elements or compounds that may be naturally occurring or caused by human beings such as nitrogen, bleach, salts, pesticides, metals, toxins produced by bacteria, and human or animal drugs.

Physical substance: sediment or organic materials suspended in the water from soil erosion and litter, primarily impacting the physical appearance or other physical properties of water.

Radiological substance: chemical elements with an unbalanced number of protons and neutrons resulting in unstable atoms that can emit ionizing radiation such as cesium, plutonium, and uranium.

Illicit Discharge. The entry of any substance or contaminant, other than stormwater, into any stormwater system.

Pollutant. Any substance in water, soil, or air that degrades the natural quality of the environment, offends the sense of sight, taste, or smell, or causes a health hazard. The usefulness of the natural resource is usually impaired by the presence of pollutants and contaminants.

Stormwater Management System. Structures and treatments to filter and treat rainfall runoff, which may carry pollutants such as litter, oils, gasoline, fertilizers, pesticides, sediments, and any other item that can float, dissolve, or be swept away by moving water.

Stormwater System. The inlets, pipes, ponds, treatment areas, and discharge structures for managing rainfall runoff, also known as the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4).

Water Pollution. The contamination of water bodies (e.g., lakes, rivers, oceans, aquifers, and groundwater) occurring when pollutants are directly or indirectly discharged into water bodies without adequate treatment to remove contaminants

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PROCEDURES

Reporting and responding to illicit discharge:

1. The individual witnessing the illicit discharge will notify EHS at EHS@ucf.edu or via phone at (407) 823-6300.
2. EHS will notify Work Control for documentation and for notification of UES, and both departments will conduct a joint field inspection
3. EHS and UES will develop and implement a plan to remedy the situation in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations (if necessary, contact FDEP's Central District Office at 407-897-4100)
4. EHS will notify environmental authorities, as required by law.
5. EHS and UES will provide guidance and outreach to the university community regarding prevention of illicit discharge.
6. UES will conduct regular (annually, at minimum) inspections of the stormwater system. Any necessary maintenance, repairs, or stabilization identified shall be resolved within 60 days of identification, subject to available funding

RELATED INFORMATION or DOCUMENTS

BOG Regulation 1.001, University Board of Trustees Powers and Duties, (7)(e) Property and Purchasing and (8)(e) Miscellaneous Powers and Duties

Florida Administrative Code, Chapter 62-624, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4)

Florida Statute, Section 403.0885, Environmental Control, Establishment of federally approved state National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program

40 CFR 122 – EPA Administered Permit Programs: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

CONTACTS

Environmental Health and Safety:
EHS@ucf.edu
Phone: (407) 823-6300

Facilities and Business Operation, Utilities and Engineering Services:
wcc@ucf.edu
Phone: (407) 823 – 5223

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Central District Office:
Phone: 407-897-4100

POLICY APPROVAL
(For use by the Office of the President)

Policy Number: 3-134

Initiating Authority — Date: 7/11/25

Initiating Authority and University Policies and Procedures Committee Chair — Date: 6/30/2025

President or Designee — Date: 7/18/2025