CUPA Facilities and Flooding

In the event of a flood or other disaster, the components that Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) facilities use to monitor and safeguard hazardous material/waste could be impacted. Below are some helpful tips to assist you before, during and after a flood.

Before a Flood

1. Dispose of hazardous waste regularly to prevent unnecessary stockpiling.
2. When it becomes necessary to purchase materials for your business, make sure to buy only what you need to prevent unnecessary stockpiling.
3. Make sure that your hazardous materials inventory on the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) is up to date to better assist emergency responders in the event of a flood or other disaster.
4. Properly store hazardous materials/waste.
5. Be sure to keep hazardous materials/waste in containers that are properly labelled, sealed and in good condition.
6. Whenever practical, keep all hazardous materials/waste inside and above flood-level.
7. Where possible, equipment should be secured to prevent risk of falling, breaking, or floating away. Hazardous materials/waste, oils, or fuels should be moved to a safe location.
8. If flooding becomes imminent, all equipment should be shut down and all electrical power turned off.

During a Flood

A CUPA facility may have multiple on-site components or processes that could be impacted by a flood or other disaster.

1. **Underground Storage Tank (UST)**
   UST systems are monitored using sensors for leak detection and operate with electricity. During a flood or other disaster, if the facility loses power, a secondary source of power may be used. Facilities that do not have a secondary source of power should design and maintain a plan to monitor for leak detection in case of power outages. One way facilities can provide monitoring is by keeping records of daily visual inspections until power is back on. This would require physically looking into sumps, under dispenser containments and checking the level of product/waste in the USTs. Records of these inspections must be kept onsite to be reviewed during CUPA inspections. Electronic gates and electronic doors that secure some UST sites may not be functional, so be sure to have a plan to access and secure them. Facility operators should ensure that there is enough product in the tank to assist in keeping the tank from floating and breaching the surface.

2. **Aboveground Petroleum Storage Tanks (APSA)**
   Aboveground tanks are installed with sensors and leak detectors that will not operate in the event of a power outage. A facility should have a plan in place to make sure that the aboveground tanks are inspected daily during a power outage. Records of these inspections must be kept onsite to be

reviewed during CUPA inspections. Facility operators should ensure that any secondary containment is free and clear of any debris. Electronic gates and electronic doors that secure some APSA sites may not be functional, have a plan to access and secure them. Aboveground tanks should also be secured to the ground to avoid floating or being swept away.

3. **California Accidental Release Program (CalARP) Processes**
   CalARP facilities have complex systems that should have standard operating procedures in place to safely shut down their systems (Title 19 Section 2755.3, Section 2760.3 and Section 2762.3) in the event of an emergency. If the facility loses power, the chemical detection systems may not be operational without a backup source of power requiring a method of daily inspection to be included in emergency procedures. Records must be kept so that they can be reviewed during routine inspections. Security is critical for these sites. If electronic gates or electronic doors are used to secure the site, they may no longer be functional. Ensure emergency procedures include a way to access the doors and secure the gates.

4. **Hazardous Material/ Hazardous Waste Storage**
   Hazardous materials/wastes are normally kept in 55-gallon drums or small totes. Although these containers may not have any sensors or leak detection equipment, monitoring them in the event of a flood or prolonged power outage should be included in the facility's best management practices. If hazardous waste treatment is performed at the facility, plans must be in place to contain the treatment processes to avoid unauthorized discharge to the environment. Records of these inspections must be kept onsite to be reviewed during inspections. If electronic gates and electronic doors are used to secure the materials/waste, they may not be functional in the event of a power outage or flood. Ensure a plan is in place to access the doors and secure the gates.

After a Flood

Inspection

It is the responsibility of the manager or facility operator to conduct a complete self-inspection of their facility after a flood. The manager or facility operators of impacted facilities should contact their CUPA regulator (Kern County Public Health or Bakersfield Fire Department) to conduct an inspection of the facility prior to resuming operations.

Cleanup

If cleanup of hazardous waste is required, the facility must secure a licensed hazardous materials cleanup contractor. An EPA ID will be required to remove any hazardous waste. If the facility does not have a permanent EPA ID, a temporary one may be obtained through the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) website at https://dtsc.ca.gov/hazardous-waste-id-numbers/.

Equipment

Devices that use gas or diesel, like generators, pumps, pressure washers, etc., have the potential to release carbon monoxide. Only trained personnel should restart equipment after careful monitoring and proper

drying/cleaning of the equipment. Equipment that was exposed to flood waters should be cleaned to remove any flood related residue that may have accumulated. If the residue is hazardous, this waste must be removed and disposed of by a licensed hazardous material cleanup contractor. Damaged equipment that held hazardous material/waste much either be repaired or disposed of as hazardous waste. For equipment that must meet industry standards, these standards must be reviewed and implemented before this equipment is reused.

To receive the most current information on potential flooding, subscribe to ReadyKern emergency alerts at www.readykern.com.

For further information related to CUPA facility preparedness or reopening following a flood, please reach out to your respective regulator, as follows:

For facilities within the City of Bakersfield:
Bakersfield Fire Department
Fire Prevention
661-326-3970
prevention@bakersfieldfire.us

For facilities in all other areas of the County of Kern:
Kern County Public Health, Environmental Health Division
2700 M Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield, California 93301
(661) 862-8740