

Employee Training: Part 2 **Agricultural Water Quality: Site and Emergency Information**



Certain types of information must be provided when a farm is inspected for compliance with stormwater regulations. It is recommended that growers use the Agricultural Water Quality Record Keeping System developed as part of the UC Cooperative Extension Ag Water Quality Research and Extension Program, or develop their own system that works with their growing operation.

One of the items that must be a part of water quality record-keeping is a **map of the farm site**. This must include street or road names, general neighborhood location and any streams, lakes, rivers or other water bodies located on or near the property. The slope or drainage should also be noted on the map.

In addition to the map showing the general location of the farm, an additional map showing location of various facilities on the farm must be included. The same general site map

that is used for hazardous materials inspections can be used for water quality records. Location of facilities such as pesticide storage, wells, gasoline pumps and other chemical storage should be added to the map if they are not already there. Reviewing the map will indicate if there are materials stored in any locations that will impact water quality.

In addition to mapping the farm site, **emergency information** must be available in the event of a chemical spill or other incident that may have an impact on water quality. A **spill response plan** needs to be in place, with care taken to note possible water quality impacts. Employees must be familiar with clean-up procedures. Phone numbers of those to contact in the event of an event that causes contamination of a water body must be included in the record keeping, and should also be posted in a readily available location.

Take a look around: With your site map in hand, walk your farm site with any employees that will be involved in hazardous materials management or spill responses. Amend your map Use this as an opportunity to change the location of storage of materials or other activities if it is obvious that there is a better location that will have less impact on water quality. Check on postings for emergency numbers and make sure your **supplies for spill clean-up** are easily available and in adequate supply. Note in your water quality records that you have reviewed your map and location, and any changes you have made.