**S439 BMPs for In-Water and Overwater Fueling**

**Description of Pollutant Sources:** BMPs in this section apply to businesses and public agencies that operate a facility used for the transfer of fuels from a stationary pumping station to vehicles or equipment in water. This type of fueling station includes aboveground or underground fuel storage facilities, which may be permanent or temporary. Fueling stations include facilities such as, but not limited to, commercial gasoline stations, port facilities, marinas, private fleet fueling stations, and boatyards.

Typically, stormwater contamination at fueling stations is caused by leaks or spills of fuels, lubrication oils, and fuel additives. These materials contain organic compounds, oil and greases, and metals that can be harmful to humans and aquatic life.

Most fuel dock spills are small and result from overfilling boat fuel tanks, burps from air vent lines, and drips from the pump nozzle as it is being returned to the pump.

**Pollutant Control Approach:** Provide employees with proper training and use spill control devices to prevent the discharge of pollutants in the receiving water or the drainage system.

**Applicable Operational BMPs**

**Applicable Operational BMPs for Fuel Docks**

General

Training and Fueling Dock Supervision

* Have an employee supervise the fuel dock during fueling activities.

Fueling Dock Setup, Maintenance and Inspection

* personal watercraft/jet skis while refueling.
* Use automatic shut-off nozzles and promote the use of “whistles” and fuel/air separators on air vents or tank stems of inboard fuel tanks to reduce the amount of fuel spilled into receiving waters during fueling of boats.

Fueling Practices

* Have the boat operator place an absorbent pad or suction cup bottle under the vent(s) to capture fuel spurts from the vent.
* Never block open the fuel nozzle trigger and always disable hands-free clips to ensure the boater remains with the nozzle to prevent overfilling. Hands-free clips are not allowed in Washington, per [WAC 296-24-33015](http://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=296-24-33015).
* Always keep the nozzle tip pointing up and hang the nozzle vertically when not in use.

Spill Cleanup

* See S426 BMPs for Spills of Oil and Hazardous Substances.
* Manage petroleum-contaminated booms, pads, and absorbents in a designated collection container and properly dispose of these materials (see S427 BMPs for Storage of Liquid, Food Waste, or Dangerous Waste Containers).
* Using detergents to disperse a fuel spill is illegal and the fines are expensive.
* Ensure customers do not use soaps in the event of a spill. Use oil absorbent booms or pads instead.

**Applicable Operational BMPs for Fueling by Portable Container**

* Have boats fuel on shore or at a fuel dock rather than transport fuel from an uplandfacility to the boats. Only use hand-held fueling containers or “jerry cans” whennecessary or when on shore or at dock fueling is not practical.
* Always refill portable fuel containers on the pavement or dock to ensure a goodelectrical ground. While the deck of the boat may seem stable, static electricity canbuild up and cause a spark.
* On the dock, put an absorbent pad under the container and wrap an absorbent padaround the fuel fill — this can easily be done by putting a hole in the pad.
* Ensure the nozzle stays in contact with the tank opening.
* When transferring fuel from a portable can, use a fuel siphon with a shut-off feature.
* If a siphon is not available, a nozzle/spout with a shut off is a good alternative.
* Since fueling boats with a portable container can take time, make sure the container is comfortable to carry, hold, and balance.
* Use a high flow funnel. Funnels can help prevent spills by making a larger opening for fueling.
* Place a plug of absorbent pad or paper towel in the nozzle when not in use to capture any extra drops that accumulate.
* Fuel slowly and pour deliberately, and watch the container (especially the nozzle mechanism) for signs of wear.
* Store portable fuel tanks out of direct sunlight and keep in a cool, dry place to minimize condensation.