Every Member of the BWI or Martin State Airport Community is at the Controls

Aircraft Deicing

In snow or rain, deicing is an important part of keeping the airport safe for everyone. Deicing fluids, oil, fuel, hazardous chemicals and even the grime from the thousands of hamburgers served in terminal food courts can be a problem if stormwater that must be disposed of carefully. Deicing fluids, oil, fuel, hazardous chemicals must be contained and disposed of properly. Deicing fluids contain flammable ingredients, so deicing operations are confined to areas that are far enough from airport runways and streets to prevent accidental spillage.

SWPPP best management practices include:
- Use environmentally-friendly deicing fluids
- Follow proper application techniques to avoid excessive use

Runway/Taxiway Deicing

Proper deicing of airplane landing and runway surfaces ensures that they are safe for aircraft to use. At BWI, efforts are made to keep deicing fluid as dry as possible, so it does not affect the environment or airport operations. BWI strives to keep the rate of deicing as low as possible. Deicing fluids contain flammable ingredients, so deicing operations are confined to areas that are far enough from airport runways and streets to prevent accidental spillage. At BWI, a secondary line of defense against spills are oil/water separators that separate oil and water and prevent harmful substances from reaching local streams.

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Airports and Birds

Birds and airports are like oil and water—they don’t mix. Birds can be drawn into aircraft engines or impact airport infrastructure. Birds are considered pests because they can contaminate food sources, and clog fish gills. Additionally, birds can create a habitat for fish and aquatic insects, covering their eggs with grime and debris. In areas where bird control measures are implemented, the airport is required to work with a reputable wildlife control service to prevent birds from using the areas.

SWPPP best management practices include:
- Protect and monitor areas with bird control measures
- Use grids over any open water of airport facilities
- Use adaptive management strategies to control bird populations

Stormwater Management

No matter what time of year it is, every airport is responsible for controlling stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff can contain harmful substances such as antifreeze, pesticides, or solvents. These substances can be harmful to the environment if not properly disposed of. Instead, stormwater runoff is treated at a wastewater plant. Stormwater runoff can cause harmful substances to enter the water system, damaging both aquatic and non-aquatic life. At BWI, efforts are made to keep stormwater runoff as dry as possible so it does not affect the environment or airport operations.

SWPPP best management practices include:
- Reduce the amount of stormwater runoff
- Use grids over any open water of airport facilities
- Use adaptive management strategies to control bird populations

Aircraft & Ground Vehicle Maintenance

The maintenance and cleaning of aircraft and ground vehicles has the potential to contaminate stormwater if performed in areas that drain to the storm system. Hazardous materials such as paints, cleaners, solvents, fuels and fluids can make it into the stormwater system if not properly disposed of. At BWI, efforts are made to keep hazardous materials out of the stormwater system. At BWI, efforts are made to keep hazardous materials out of the stormwater system. SWPPP best management practices include:
- Perform maintenance in appropriate locations
- Use deicing fluids that do not contain hazardous materials
- Return unused hazardous materials to their designated storage areas after use
- Ensure personnel have taken annual refresher training
- Install and maintain erosion controls at construction sites
- Stabilize disturbed soil at construction sites

Garbage Collection

Garbage collection is an important part of keeping the airport safe for everyone. Garbage can be blown out of open dumpsters and carried into the storm drain system. Garbage can be blown out of open dumpsters and carried into the storm drain system. The maintenance and cleaning of aircraft and ground vehicles has the potential to contaminate stormwater if performed in areas that drain to the storm system. Hazardous materials such as paints, cleaners, solvents, fuels and fluids can make it into the stormwater system if not properly disposed of. At BWI, efforts are made to keep hazardous materials out of the stormwater system.

SWPPP best management practices include:
- Secure other restaurant waste in a closed dumpster
- Place cigarette butts in proper receptacles to keep them from being picked up by animals
- Do not overfill dumpsters
- Remove unwanted hazardous materials from areas that drain to storm systems

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Roadway Deicing

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Stormwater management and pollution prevention programs at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) and Martin State Airport are critical to protecting the natural environment as well as the airport and its tenants. The deicing water collected from the airport is treated and recycled to maintain water quality for surface waterways and rivers. The deicing water is treated for nutrients, suspended solids, and heavy metals to minimize environmental impacts.

Wind storms are a common occurrence on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. The storms create adverse conditions for deicing aircraft, which is essential to ensure safe flight. A significant amount of water is collected and recycled due to the deicing operations at BWI. The deicing water is treated to prevent nutrient loading in surface waterways and rivers, which can impact the quality of aquatic habitats.

Managing stormwater at BWI and Martin State Airports is complex due to the varying seasons, weather conditions, and aircraft operations. The airports have implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff. These BMPs include structural controls such as detention ponds, swales, and green infrastructure. In addition, the airports have implemented non-structural BMPs such as good housekeeping practices, pollution prevention, and material reuse.

Martin State Airport

The airport is located on the north shore of the Susquehanna River, approximately 6 miles south of the city of Havre De Grace. The airport has 2 runways and a large storage area. The airport is a popular destination for island hopping and has a large number of visitors who enjoy the scenic views of the Susquehanna River and the surrounding area.

Ground Crews' Effect on Runoff

The airport’s ground crews play a critical role in preventing stormwater pollution. Good housekeeping practices such as prompt cleaning of spills, minimizing water run-off, and ensuring that all equipment is properly maintained can significantly reduce stormwater runoff. In addition, the airport has implemented BMPs such as swales, vegetated areas, and rain gardens to reduce runoff and improve water quality.

Martin State Airport History

The airport has a rich history dating back to the early 1900s. The airport was established in 1927 and became a major hub for military aviation during World War II. The airport has since been used as a general aviation airport and has hosted a variety of events and activities.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System—Best Management Practices

Stormwater discharges from BWI and Martin State airports are regulated by the Maryland Department of Environment (MDE). The airport has implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent the discharge of pollutants into the stormwater system. These BMPs include structural controls such as detention ponds and vegetated swales.

Pollution Prevention Programs

The airport has implemented pollution prevention programs to minimize the impacts of stormwater runoff. These programs include:

- SOURCE REDUCTION
- MATERIALS REUSE
- RECYCLING
- LANDFILL REDUCTION
- ENERGY CONSERVATION
- WATER CONSERVATION
- LED LIGHTING
- LED ENTRANCE SIGNS

These efforts are designed to reduce the amount of waste generated at the airport and to minimize the environmental impact of stormwater runoff.