



# STORMWATER BMP MAINTENANCE NEWSLETTER



Fall brings beautiful colors, shorter daylight hours, cooler weather... and hurricanes.



## Time to Exhale

There's nothing like an impending hurricane to get dam emergency teams on their toes. Before Hurricane Joaquin changed course and tracked out to sea, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Stormwater Facility Maintenance managers, inspectors, engineers and other staff were on high alert. Before the storm, engineers and inspectors checked County owned pond dam embankments and other pond structures to be sure ponds were ready for the impact of the storm. When the storm was predicted to head our way, staff were at the ready to be on the dams 24-7, monitoring water levels and assessing dam conditions.

Had Hurricane Joaquin come our way, DEP and the County's Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS) would have been ready to step in and take action. Please click [here](#) to check out more about DEP's role in emergency action plans and [here](#) to learn more about the role of OEMHS as featured in My Green Montgomery blogs *Dam Safety 101: Emergency Action Plans & Severe Weather Parts 1 and 2*.

## Be Proactive

Take time to go out before predicted large storm events to check your pond to make sure you don't see any signs of erosion along the embankments and to make sure all structures are clear of debris. Large rainfall amounts and failing dams and/or jammed inflow/outflow structures can lead to flooding and severe damage. Check out our [structural](#) and [non-structural pond maintenance](#) fact sheets for more info on how to maintain your pond year-round.



A dam blow-out at a weir wall juncture (not in Montgomery County).

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## Maintenance Tips

- **Be sure to mow.** Last week's rain may mean you need to mow one last time in the fall. The dry conditions had most of us thinking the mowing season was over, but all that rain and some pretty nice temperatures in the coming weeks will mean the grass will start to grow again.
- **Check inlets and outflows to your facilities to be sure they are open.** Fallen leaves and branches can clog stormwater measures.
- **Contact DEP** if a facility holds water for more than 72 hours or if a wet pond has a higher than normal pond level, as this could indicate a problem.
- Please **contact DEP** if any entity approaches you about work on or near the dam of your pond. Utilities are often located under or very near dams. DEP staff can assist you in coordinating with the utility companies.
- Reach us at [AskDEP@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:AskDEP@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov).

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## 2015 Fall SWM Contractor Training Opportunities

A company that performs maintenance on a stormwater management facility in Montgomery County must hold a certificate of attendance and re-certify every 3 years.

This year, the trainings are split into 2 different days. You must attend both days if you desire both aboveground **and** belowground certification.

Both sessions will be held at the Executive Office Building Lobby Auditorium @ 101 Monroe Street in Rockville, MD from 8:30 am until 12:30 p.m.

- [Aboveground](#): Tuesday, October 20, 2015
- [Belowground](#): Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Please click the links above to register or contact DEP for more information:

[MC.Stormwater@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:MC.Stormwater@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov)

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