

Environmental Compliance Program

Responsible Administrator: Environmental Compliance Assistant Director
Revised: August 2023

Summary: This section outlines the policy and procedures related to environmental management of air, water, and soil that are administered through the University of California, Irvine (UC Irvine) Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) Department.

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1. Program Description

UC Irvine EHS is responsible for environmental management through implementation of regulations associated with the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and use of hazardous materials and disposal of hazardous wastes. This section also defines the responsibilities of the various units whose actions have the potential to affect these aspects of environmental management.

This section does not apply to environmental protection, regulation, and permitting associated with other laws and programs such as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Endangered Species Act, cultural resource regulations, land use planning, and various aspects of transportation planning. These environmental activities are administered by Environmental Planning and Sustainability.

2. Scope

EHS provides environmental management services to the campus, which includes the following:

- Air emissions – To comply with rules and regulations, the campus must obtain permits and provide reports to South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for air emission sources and toxic air contaminants. Some stationary and mobile sources of air emissions must be permitted by the SCAQMD.
- Environmental monitoring – In compliance with permits or regulatory requirements, various campus units perform routine environmental monitoring of air, water, or soil.
- Environmental releases – Any releases or spills must immediately be reported to EHS, which will determine the appropriate response and notification actions.
- Environmental remediation – When contamination of the environment is found, UC Irvine, with regulatory agency oversight, works to investigate the nature and extent of impacts, evaluate potential remedies, and take appropriate remedial action.
- Hazardous materials management – Federal and State laws and regulations require UC Irvine to properly document and store hazardous materials on campus. Additionally, UC Irvine is required to disclose information about hazardous materials management to regulatory agencies.
- Hazardous waste management – Chemical, radioactive, universal, and biohazardous wastes are managed in accordance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations through EHS.
- Sanitary sewer discharges – Discharges or overflows of the sanitary sewer system are regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board. The program requires UC Irvine to develop and implement a system-specific Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP).
- Storm water discharges – Certain operations on campus (San Joaquin Landfill) are required to monitor stormwater discharges, in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for industrial activity.

- Storage tanks – Aboveground and underground tanks used for storage of hazardous materials or fuels must meet regulatory requirements. Regulations require permits, adherence to construction standards, monitoring programs, tank integrity testing, guidelines for closure of tanks, cleanup of contamination, record keeping, and reporting.

3. Responsibilities

Campus Departments/Units Responsibilities

- Follow environmental laws, regulations, and UC Irvine policies and procedures.
- Work with EHS to obtain permits when required.
- Maintain compliance with all environmental permits and campus use authorizations.
- Refer regulatory agencies to EHS.
- Perform environmental monitoring, contract for laboratory analysis, and prepare reports as required by permits and regulations.
- Seek consultation from EHS about environmental requirements that apply to campus operations.
- Provide training for employees in operational requirements pertaining to environmental management and maintain records of such training.
- Activities with potential for environmental impact are performed with approved operating procedures and that required records are current.
- Notify EHS immediately of environmental releases or spills.

Environmental Health & Safety Responsibilities

- Serve as a regulatory agency liaison.
- Assist with preparation of environmental compliance plans, permits, and reports as mandated by laws, regulations, permits, licenses, and use authorizations.
- Submit reports to regulatory agencies in compliance with applicable requirements.
- Serve as office of record for environmental permits.
- Investigate reports of environmental releases and notify Federal, State, and local authorities as required.
- Maintain compliance with all environmental laws and regulations.

Employee Responsibilities

- Refer regulatory agencies to EHS.
- Adhere to environmental requirements in permits and in standard operating procedures.
- Notify EHS immediately of environmental releases or spills.
- Notify supervisor of conditions that have the potential to become environmental hazards.
- Complete all required training pertaining to environmental management; go to UC Learning Center (UCLC) system for a list of required training classes.