

CHAPTER 14
CONSTRUCTION SITE EROSION CONTROL

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8-14-1: **PURPOSE:** This Chapter sets forth requirements for construction site operators and enables the City to comply with the Clean Water Act. The objectives of this Chapter are:

(A) To protect storm water, ground water, water bodies, water courses, and wetlands from construction activities pursuant to and consistent with the United States Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et. Seq.) as the same is currently in effect or as may be amended hereafter.

(B) To manage and control the amount of pollutants in storm water discharges, soil erosion, sediment discharge, and mud and dirt deposits on public roadways caused by or the result of construction activities.

(C) To regulate construction activities, storm water management and soil conservation measures are utilized at the site of any construction activity.

(D) To ensure adequate drainage, storm water management and soil conservation measures are utilized at the site of any construction activity. (Ord. 2886, 11-10-11)

8-14-2: **DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

Certain terms used in this Ordinance shall have the following meanings:

CHANGE IN GRADE: Any excavation, placement, removal or relocation of top soil or subsurface materials in any manner which results in or causes a change in grade or elevation of any portion of a Construction Site.

CITY: The City of Idaho Falls.

CITY ENGINEER: The City Engineer or a designated agent.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY: The construction, repair, rehabilitation of any structure or improvement to real property which involves any excavation, grading, transportation or movement of topsoil or native rock to or from a Construction Site or which creates a significant chance that soil erosion will transport soil from the Construction Site in the public gutters or sewer.

CONSTRUCTION SITE: Any parcel of real property greater than 4,000 square feet in surface area located wholly in or partially within the City and where a Construction Activity or Change in Grade is undertaken or intended to be undertaken. (Ord. 2915, 02-28-13)

8-14-3:PERMITS:

(A) Permit Required. It shall be unlawful for any person to undertake any Construction Activity or Change in Grade without first obtaining a permit under this Chapter.

(B) No Construction Activity Without Permit. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in any Construction Activity or Change in Grade except in compliance with an erosion control plan approved by the City Engineer in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter.

(C) Exemptions: The following construction of land disturbing activities do not require a permit:

- (1) Minor land disturbance activities performed by the property owner or an employee of the property owner, including, but not limited to, home gardening, commercial and residential landscaping and landscaping maintenance and minor repair work.
- (2) Repair of structures and utility work which occurs entirely on a residential lot in which no sediment leaves the property.
- (3) Drain tiling, tilling, or planting incidental to agricultural crops, and harvesting of agricultural, horticultural, or silvicultural crops.
- (4) Emergency repairs or emergency work necessary to protect life, limb, or property.
- (5) The cleaning and/or removal of debris and obstructions from any existing ditch, canal, creek or river.
- (6) The repair, installation or removal of any water line, sewer line, electric line, CATV line, gas line or computer cable occurring solely within the public right-of-way.

(D) Application for Permit. Each application for an erosion control permit shall be upon a form provided by the City and shall bear the mailing address and legal description of the site, the name(s) and address(es) of the owner(s) of the site, the names and mailing addresses of all contractors or persons who engage in any Construction Activity on the Construction Site, the name of the certified erosion control contractor who will have responsible charge of the Construction Activity, the name of any engineer or professional consulting firm retained by the applicant to design, inspect and have responsible charge of such Construction Activity. The application shall be accompanied by a filing fee, the amount of which shall be set by a Resolution adopted by the City Council. Each application shall be accompanied by an erosion control plan, the contents of which shall be established by the City Engineer. The erosion control plan must bear the signature and certification number of an individual who possesses a valid and current certification in accordance with Section 8-14-7 of this Chapter and who has demonstrated competence in proper methods of erosion control and who is knowledgeable of federal, state, and local laws and regulations regarding erosion control and methods of preventing pollution and deposit of sediment into natural streams.

(E) Compliance with Plan Required. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in, control, or otherwise have responsible charge of any Construction Activity or Change in Grade which does not comply with an approved erosion control plan. (Ord. 2915, 02-28-13) (Ord. 2915, 02-28-13)

8-14-4: REVIEW AND APPROVAL:

(A) The City Engineer will review each application for an erosion control permit and shall, in writing:

- (1) Approve the permit application;
- (2) Approve the permit application with reasonable conditions as may be necessary to secure the objectives to this ordinance; or
- (3) Disapprove the permit application and provide the reasons for such disapproval in writing. (Ord. 2886, 11-10-11)

8-14-5: EROSION CONTROL PLAN:

(A) the contents and form of the erosion control plan shall be established by the City Engineer. The Building Division shall make such information available to contractors, developers and property owners upon request.

(B) The erosion control plan shall address the best management practices (BMPs) to assure the following standards or practices are followed during land disturbing activities:

- (1) Erosion, sediment, or discharge of pollutants, resulting from construction activities, which enter onto public property or private

property not controlled by the permit holder, shall be eliminated to the maximum extent practicable.

- (2) All necessary action shall be taken to minimize the depositing and tracking of mud, dirt, sand, gravel, rock or debris on the public rights-of-way. The owner of the site of the construction activity or the permit holder shall be responsible for any clean-up of the public rights-of-way or private property not controlled by the permit holder necessitated by any tracking or depositing of mud, dirt, sand, gravel, rock, or debris, or shall reimburse the City for any expenses incurred by the City to clean-up the applicable area.
- (3) Construction ramps shall be constructed of material that will not erode or deteriorate under adverse conditions and shall not be placed in a manner so as to interfere with the passage of storm water runoff.
- (4) No debris, dirt, aggregate or excavated materials, or construction materials shall be placed on the public rights-of-way unless permitted by the City Engineer. In addition, public sidewalks shall not be removed, blocked, or otherwise rendered unusable by construction activity, equipment or materials, or portable toilets, unless a safe, usable alternate walkway, which meets the design standards of the American with Disabilities Act, is placed on the same side of the right-of-way by the contractor.
- (5) No owner or lessee of real property shall allow the property to be unoccupied, unused, vacant or undeveloped after the topsoil has been disturbed or the natural cover removed, unless control measures are undertaken to prevent mud, sand, dirt, and gravel from mitigating offsite and entering the public rights-of-way or a storm water system. Soil or aggregate stockpiles shall not be stored on unoccupied, vacant, unused, or undeveloped property unless appropriate control measures are in place and reviewed and permitted by the City Engineer. This provision is not meant to prevent individual homeowners from accepting title of land that is not yet landscaped, and such homeowners will not be in violation of this Ordinance.
- (6) All temporary erosion and sediment control measures shall be removed after final site stabilization. Trapped sediment and other disturbed soil areas resulting from the removal of temporary measures shall be permanently stabilized within thirty (30) days from the removal of the temporary measures.

- (7) Grading, erosion control practices, sediment control practices, and waterway crossings shall meet the design criteria set forth in the Best Management Practices for Idaho Cities and Counties, published by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality.
- (8) Clearing, except that necessary to establish sediment control devices, shall not begin until all sediment control devices have been installed and have been stabilized.
- (9) Phasing shall be required on all sites greater than thirty (30) acres with the size of each phase to be established at plat review and as approved by the City Engineer. (Ord. 2886, 11-10-11; Ord. 3003, 4-23-15)

8-14-6: INSPECTIONS:

(A) The City Engineer or designated agent shall make inspections, approve the work completed, and/or notify the permit holder when the work fails to comply with the erosion control plan and permit as approved. A copy of the erosion control plan shall be maintained at the Construction Site at all times while construction work is being conducted. To obtain inspections, the permit holder shall notify the Building Division at least two (2) working days before the start of construction, installation of sediment and erosion measures, completion of final grading and close of construction season or final landscaping.

(B) The purpose of inspections is to determine compliance with the control plan and its effectiveness. All inspections are to be documented in written form.

(C) Filing of an application with the Building Division is deemed approval and authorization for such inspections at reasonable times. (Ord. 2886, 11-10-11; Ord. 3003, 4-23-15)

8-14-7: TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION:

(A) Any person who successfully completes a City approved training program in construction erosion control shall be recognized as a certified erosion control contractor. Fees for the issuance of such certification shall be set by resolution of the City Council.

(B) City certifications shall expire on December 31 of the third calendar year following issuance of the certification. A change of employment has no effect on the validity of such certification. (Ord. 2915, 02-28-13)

(C) Certifications from other cities, states or associations may be accepted upon approval of the City Engineer. (Ord. 2886, 11-10-11)

8-14-8: ENFORCEMENT:

(A) If the City Engineer or designated agent determines a violation of the approved erosion control plan is occurring or has occurred, the permit holder may be notified by a correction notice. Such notice shall contain a description of the violation and provide a time period in which corrective action must be taken.

(B) If the corrective action is not taken, a stop work order may be placed on the site or a citation may be issued.

(C) If no reasonable effort at corrective action is made or if necessitated by an emergency, the City Engineer may cause the corrective action to be performed and shall assess the actual and administrative costs of such performance against the property owner.

(D) A stop work order may be issued at any time Construction Activities or Changes in Grade are being undertaken without a valid, current permit. (Ord. 2886, 11-10-11)

8-14-9: EFFECTIVE DATE: This Chapter shall be effective with respect to any Construction Activity or Change of Grade which commences or occurs on or after the effective date of this Chapter. (Ord. 2886, 11-10-11)