

Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures
Dry wells at the Fire Training Center
601.04
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PURPOSE

To identify best management practices to be followed by Tempe Fire Department personnel, in order to minimize the environmental and water quality impacts of releasing non-storm water runoff to the dry wells at the Tempe/APS Joint Fire Training Center.

Dry wells

Dry wells are constructed to retain storm water and non-storm water runoff from surfaces in and around buildings and other manmade structures. The runoff into dry wells can reach groundwater reservoirs, and state law protects these groundwater resources. The law requires an Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) aquifer protection permit is applied for, issued, and permit conditions complied with at dry well installations. The City's Environmental Management Section is responsible for aquifer protection permits at the Tempe/APS Joint Fire Training Center.

Best Management Practices

Under ADEQ's aquifer protection permit program, the use of best management practices attempts to minimize the environmental and water quality impacts of runoff reaching the dry wells. Tempe Fire Department personnel at the Tempe/APS Joint Fire Training Center shall use three best management practices to be in compliance with the permit:

1. Foam products are only used in the cement-lined Auto Extrication Prop area.
2. Cleaning the burns building is to be completed using only dry methods.
3. Dry wells will be maintained as described in ADEQ's Guidance for Design, Installation, Operation, Maintenance, and Inspection of Dry wells.

Compliance

Tempe Fire Department Deputy Chief of Training/Professional Development is responsible for compliance with the first and second best management practices listed above, on an ongoing basis. Tempe Environmental Management Section personnel are responsible for compliance with the third best management practice listed above. Maintenance and inspection of the dry wells at the Tempe/APS Joint Fire Training Center shall be conducted periodically.