



The National Park Service EnviroFact Sheets

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Background and Instructions

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What are EnviroFact Sheets?

The EnviroFact Sheets are a set of tools designed to:

- Help National Park Service (NPS) units and operations personnel deal with their environmental management responsibilities;
- Provide plain English summaries of key environmental management topics relevant to NPS operations and, in most cases, a series of compliance assessment questions; and
- Answer the most common questions about key NPS environmental management topics.

Who is the intended audience?

The intended audience is NPS staff most likely to be responsible for the selected environmental management topics. In most cases, this occurs at the park level. Because of their close proximity to the environmental management issue, these individuals are in the best position to help prevent pollution and ensure compliance.

Who else can benefit from using the EnviroFact Sheets?

EnviroFact Sheets can be used by anyone needing fundamental information on key NPS environmental management topics, including parks, regions, and offices.

Outside the NPS, users may be contractors or visitors who need to learn about NPS environmental management issues and requirements. Because EnviroFact Sheets are highly customized for NPS facilities and operations, they may not be as useful to other organizations with different operations and governing authorities.

How are EnviroFact Sheets to be used?

There are two sides to each EnviroFact Sheet. Each has an important, but different purpose:

- Side one (face page) presents summary information about key environmental management topics affecting NPS operations in plain English. For those who need more detail, side one also contains references to related EnviroFact Sheets and/or other sources of information, such as: (1) regulations, or (2) NPS policies. Side one is designed for quickly orienting personnel on the fundamentals of each environmental management topic. In this regard, it is useful as an initial or refresher training aid. Side one may be posted near a job site as a reminder of environmental management responsibilities or a collection of EnviroFact Sheet face pages may serve as a simple job-focused environmental manual. For example, all EnviroFact Sheets related to vehicle maintenance (e.g., Used Oil, Spent Solvents, etc.) could be made available in the maintenance garage where it is more likely to be used.
- Side two (back page) contains a list of simple, self-explanatory questions that users can ask to assess park environmental compliance status or pollution prevention opportunities. In this case, "compliance" means adherence to NPS expectations on each environmental management topic. NPS expectations may be based upon regulations, internal policy, Executive Orders, or other applicable authorities. Side two is designed for conducting a simple assessment of compliance status or pollution prevention opportunities. For example, personnel wishing to evaluate existing procedures for handling used oil, universal waste, or waste pesticides can quickly assess park operations by reviewing the applicable checklists on these subjects.

In summary, a collection of EnviroFact Sheets may be assembled by a user to create a simple environmental manual or job aid (side one) or an environmental assessment system (side two).

What topics are addressed by EnviroFact Sheets?

The original topics addressed by the EnviroFact Sheets were selected because they represent areas historically needing attention at NPS units. They were identified and selected by a panel of NPS regional, park, and headquarters staff who, from their direct experience, understand current environmental management needs.

Over the past eight years, additional EnviroFact Sheets have been developed as more has been learned about the environmental information needs of NPS personnel.

Is the information contained in EnviroFact Sheets all that is needed?

The information contained in EnviroFact Sheets should answer most questions from the primary user: park-level personnel.

Additional information is available on each of the environmental management topics. This additional information and level of detail will be useful to advanced users. For those needing more detailed information, specific regulatory citations are listed in each EnviroFact Sheet.

Because of wide variations, EnviroFact Sheets do not contain information about state or local regulatory requirements. The user is cautioned about this limitation.

How will the EnviroFact Sheets be updated?

Environmental requirements change over time because regulations change, new regulations become effective, or policy interpretations change. Consequently it is important to ensure that the EnviroFact Sheets contain current information.

To help users understand the “age” of a particular EnviroFact Sheet, a publication date is imprinted in the margin on the face page. Although there is no guaranteed “shelf life,” users of EnviroFact Sheets should seek the most recent versions. For critical or emergency situations, please do not rely solely upon the information in EnviroFact Sheets to address the situation.

A key benefit of EnviroFact Sheets is that, as new information becomes available, only one sheet needs to be updated as opposed to an entire manual or book.

What if I have questions?

Questions or comments on EnviroFact Sheets should be directed to Fred Sturniolo, Environmental Protection Specialist, NPS Environmental Management Program at 202/513-7078.