


# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

**FCGO: 23-01**

**June 9, 2023**

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**TO:** All MCFRS Personnel Approved 6/12/2023  
**FROM:** Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein   
**SUBJECT:** **Non-Emergency Discharge of Water into the Environment**

Except for emergency operations, MCFRS personnel must not knowingly cause water or foam to be discharged into creeks, streams, or other natural bodies of water, nor may they cause debris, sediment or other materials to be washed in any natural body of water. This prohibition includes training exercises and the washing of vehicles.

### **Training Exercises**

Discharges of water onto surfaces is permissible for bona fide training purposes but must be limited to the amount necessary to meet training objectives and must not cause disruption of fields, wildlife habitats or other areas where ecological concern is possible. Such discharges must not occur on private property without the permission of the property owner, nor may they occur in public parks, playgrounds, or other areas where public use of these facilities might reasonably be degraded, or their use interrupted.

### **Washing Vehicles**

All vehicles must be washed indoors, and the station officer must ensure that no wash water is discharged outside of the station onto surfaces that flow into stormwater systems.

This is to comply with Maryland Department of the Environment regulations. [MDE Supplemental Information](#)

### **Firefighting Foam**

This Directive also codifies the previous direction that MCFRS personnel must not cause the discharge of firefighting foams, regardless of foam class, into the environment, except for a bona fide emergency where such discharge is necessary to prevent the loss of life or significant damage to property.

Questions may be directed to the Operations Division.