

## Aquatic Invasive Species Mitigation Guidelines

The intent of these aquatic invasive species (AIS) mitigation guidelines is to summarize the actions required by AIS state statutes and administrative codes as they pertain to fire suppression, training and maintenance activities utilizing natural water sources. These guidelines pertain to both DNR and Fire Department fire suppression resources.

### State Statute Chapter 30 – Navigable Waters, Harbors and Navigation

Under the new Wis. Stat. s. 30.07(2):

(a) **No person may place or operate a vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object of any kind in a navigable water if it has any aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached to the exterior of the vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object.** This paragraph does not require a person to remove aquatic plants or aquatic animals from a vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object during the period of time when the vehicle, seaplane, watercraft, or other object is being operated in the same navigable body of water in which the aquatic plants or aquatic animals became attached.

(b) **No person may take off with a seaplane, or transport or operate a vehicle, watercraft, or other object of any kind on a highway with aquatic plants or aquatic animals attached to the exterior of the seaplane, vehicle, watercraft, or other object.**

(emphasis added by Quinn Williams)

#### **Guideline:**

1. Remove aquatic plants and animals from the exterior of vehicles, pumps, suction hoses and strainers by wiping, picking or rinsing before moving the vehicle or equipment from a water source.

### NR 329 – Miscellaneous Structures in Navigable Waterways

Under Wis. Admin. Code s. NR 329.04(1)(c)5– Miscellaneous Structures (Dry Fire Hydrants)

5. To stop the spread of invasive species and viruses from one navigable waterway to another navigable waterway, **all equipment** or portions of equipment used for constructing, operating, or maintaining the project, including tracked vehicles, barges, boats, silt or turbidity curtains, hoses, sheet piles, and pumps, **shall be decontaminated for invasive species and viruses before and after use or prior to use within another navigable waterway.** Decontamination activities shall be performed by taking actions specified in subd. 5. a. to c. or h. Decontamination shall include either subd. 5. d., e., f., g., or h. for any equipment, or portions of equipment, that is used in non-frozen navigable waters when the air temperature is above 19 degrees Fahrenheit at the time the decontamination procedures take place.

Continued:

a. **Inspect all equipment** used for constructing, operating, or maintaining the project **and remove all plants and animals, and other mud, debris, etc.**

b. **Drain all water** from equipment used in navigable waters.

**Note:** This does not apply to water in closed engine cooling systems or water tanks, or containers of potable drinking water or other beverages meant for human consumption. **If a tanker truck discharges water collected from navigable waters in upland areas, the tank does not require disinfection.**

c. **Dispose** of plants and animals in the trash. An operator may not transfer plants or animals or water from one navigable waterway to another.

d. Wash equipment at a temperature of not less than 212 degrees Fahrenheit water (steam clean).

e. Wash equipment with soap and water or high pressure water of not less than 2000 pounds per square inch.

f. Allow equipment to **dry thoroughly for not less than 5 days.**

**Note:** Additional drying techniques including drying through natural or mechanical means or changes in drying duration may be submitted to the department for review and approval.

g. Disinfect equipment with 200 parts per million (0.5 ounces per gallon) chlorine for not less than 10 minute contact time. Every effort should be made to keep the disinfection solution and rinse water out of surface waters.

**Note:** Chlorine refers to either household bleach solution (5.25% chlorine) or granular chlorine (70% calcium hypochlorite).

h. Follow the most recent department approved disinfection protocols or department approved best management practices for infested waters. The department shall maintain on its website and make available at its offices a list of the most recent disinfection protocols or department approved best management practices for invasive species and viruses.

(emphasis added by Chris Klahn)

**Guideline:**

2. If the water in the tanker or engine is discharged on an upland area, through fire suppression or dumping, the tank does not need to be disinfected.

3. If the use of the dry hydrant is for training or maintenance purposes; pumps and suction hoses, hoses and appliances must be inspected, aquatic plants and animals removed, disposed of, and the equipment must be allowed to dry for 5 days to disinfect it before the next use in natural water sources.

**NR 40 – Invasive Species Identification, Classification and Control**

Under Wis. Admin. Code s. **NR 40.07(2) – Preventative Measures**

**(2) IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF AQUATIC PLANTS AND AQUATIC ANIMALS AND DRAINAGE OF WATER.** (a) Except as provided in pars. (b) to (g):

1. Any person who removes a vehicle, boat, boat trailer, boating or fishing equipment, or other equipment or gear of any type from any inland or outlying water or from its bank or shore shall **remove all attached aquatic plants and aquatic animals** immediately after removing the vehicle, boat, boat trailer, boating or fishing equipment or other equipment or gear from the water, bank or shore and before leaving any boat launch area or associated parking area.

2. Any person who removes a vehicle or equipment other than boating or fishing equipment, or gear of any type from any inland or outlying water or from its bank or shore shall **drain all water** from the vehicle, equipment or gear, including water in any motor, tank or other container, immediately after removing the vehicle, equipment or gear from the water, bank or shore and before leaving any boat launch area or associated parking area.

**(g) Paragraph (a) does not apply to vehicles, equipment, or gear while engaged in fire suppression.**

(emphasis added by Chris Klahn)

**Guideline:**

4. During active fire suppression operations, AIS control and prevention measures are not required. The drafting and use of multiple natural water sources is acceptable if necessary.
5. For operations not involving active fire suppression, immediately remove all attached aquatic plants and animals and drain all water when the vehicle, boat, equipment or gear is removed from the water, bank or shore.

**Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) Guidelines**

**NR 19 – Miscellaneous Fur, Fish, Game and Outdoor Recreation**

Under **NR 19.055 Drainage of water from boats and equipment required.**

(1) Except as provided in subs. (3) to (5), any person who removes a boat, boat trailer, boating equipment or fishing equipment from any inland or outlying water or its bank or shore shall **drain all water from the boat, boat trailer, boating equipment** or fishing equipment, including water in any bilge, ballast tank, bait bucket, live well or other container immediately after removing the boat, boat trailer, boating equipment or fishing equipment from the water, bank or shore.

**Guideline:**

6. VHS control measures apply only to boats, boat trailers and boating equipment used in fire suppression. Drain all water immediately upon removing the boat, trailer or equipment from the water, bank or shore.

**Summary**

- **Inspect, remove and dispose aquatic plants and animals from vehicles and equipment before leaving water source.**
- **Drain water from pumps, hoses and equipment before leaving water source.**
- **If using a dry hydrant, allow pumps, hoses and equipment to dry for 5 days to disinfect them.**
- **If using boats for fire suppression, drain all water before leaving water source.**
- **Water in trucks does NOT have to be drained if used for fire suppression or dumped in upland areas.**