APPENDIX Q – Station Platform Power Washer Operations

Location: All Valley Metro Station Platforms (Blue Line • Orange Line • Tempe Streetcar)
Applicable To: Facilities Maintenance, Custodial Contractors, Safety Oversight, OCC
References:

- FTA 49 CFR Part 674.33 – State Safety Oversight
- FRA 49 CFR 214.327 – On-Track Safety for Adverse Environmental Conditions
- Valley Metro SOP 400.7 – Adverse Weather & Surface Cleaning
- Valley Metro SOP 600.5 – Station Platform Maintenance
- 49 CFR Part 671 – Roadway Worker Protection
- 49 CFR Part 672 – Safety Training & Certification
- OSHA 29 CFR 1910.95 – Occupational Noise Exposure
- Valley Metro SOP 1500.09 – Hearing Conservation

PURPOSE
To establish required protection, communication, and situational awareness standards for all personnel performing power-washing activities on platforms located within the roadway.

APPLICABILITY
This procedure applies to Valley Metro employees and contractors at all operational hours and locations where platform power-washing is required on LRV and Streetcar alignments.

RWP CLASSIFICATION
Power-washing is considered work within the roadway and requires:

1) RWP Training & Certification
2) OCC Track Access Authorization
3) Job Safety Briefing
4) Identified refuge area not fouling the track

Power-washing may be performed as a lone-worker activity only when conditions in §3.12.5 are met.

HAZARD DESCRIPTION

Facilities Maintenance personnel frequently use electric or gas-powered pressure washers to clean station platforms, shelters, tactile strips, and OCS pole bases. These tasks are typically done during non-revenue hours but may occur under OCC-authorized single-track protection during daylight for special cleaning events.

The mixture of water spray, electrical systems, and public access areas introduces multiple hazard vectors:

- Contact with energized metallic components (light poles, ticket machines, OCS poles).
- Overspray onto track rails cause unintentional conductivity or traction power return path issues.
- Slip and fall risks from pooled water or detergent residue.
- Noise, vibration, and limited situational awareness near active trackway.

HAZARD IDENTIFICATION

Hazard	Description	Required Mitigation
Noise exposure ≥85 dBA	Hearing protection required → reduced audible train detection	Escalate to RWIC protection
Wet/slippery surfaces	Hose and water on platform edge	Stage equipment behind tactile edge, maintain refuge
Train approach	Bidirectional train movements	Continuous sight and sound monitoring
Public interaction	Pedestrian interference	Work timing and crowd management

Hazards must be reviewed during the Job Safety Briefing and documented.

Four Standard Hazard Categories

Category	Assessment	Description / RWP Impact
Access Limitation	☑ Medium	Equipment hoses and cord reels can block egress routes or platform edge clearance zones. Trip hazards occur near ADA ramps or between platform segments.
Braking Distance	☑ Low	Minimal direct impact to break distance; however, overspray on running rail or embedded slab can reduce traction for LRVs entering stations.

Category	Assessment	Description / RWP Impact
Visibility (Curves / Portals / Distractions)	☑ Medium	Spray mist, steam, and reflection from lighting can reduce operator and worker visibility, masking LRV approach lights or audible alarms.
Environmental Factors	☑ High	Water and cleaning agents introduce electrical conductivity, slip hazards, and chemical exposure risk. Work during rain multiplies hazard likelihood.

Risk Assessment Matrix

Hazard ID	Description	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Mitigation / Controls
PW-1	Electrical shock from overspray contacting energized OCS base, ticket machine, or light pole	Medium	High	High	Maintain ≥ 3 ft standoff from electrical enclosures; use GFCI-protected outlets; inspect cords and connectors; prohibit use during active precipitation.
PW-2	Slips or falls on wet platform or tactile tile	High	Medium	High	Post “Wet Surface” signage; cone off work zone; apply non-slip boots; dry area before reopening to passengers.
PW-3	Water or debris carried onto trackway	Medium	High	High	OCC to verify no active train movement;

Hazard ID	Description	Likelihood	Severity	Risk Rating	Mitigation / Controls
	causing traction or braking issues				RWIC to inspect rail heads; remove pooled water before restoring service.
PW-4	Contact with moving LRV or insufficient clearance from platform edge	Low	High	Medium	Perform work only under OCC-granted track protection; maintain 4-ft minimum clearance; deploy lookouts when adjacent track active.
PW-5	Noise and spray reducing situational awareness	Medium	Medium	Medium	Require high-visibility vests, hearing protection, and two-way radios; RWIC to maintain visual contact with all crew members.

Mitigation Summary

- Authorization: All platform power washing requires OCC notification and RWP clearance prior to start.
- Equipment Safety: Inspect for leaks and damage before use.
- Surface Control: Barricade platform zones with cones or caution tape; ensure tactile warning areas remain visible before passenger use.
- Electrical Isolation: Maintain standoff from OCS poles, luminaire bases, and ticket vending machines. De-energize affected circuits if within 3 ft proximity.
- Environmental Containment: Prevent chemical runoff into track drains; use biodegradable detergents approved under Valley Metro environmental compliance plan.
- Communication: RWIC to maintain open radio channel with OCC; all personnel wear high-visibility garments with retro-reflective striping visible under mist or lighting.

References

- FTA 49 CFR Part 674.33 – State Safety Oversight
- FRA 49 CFR 214.327 – On-Track Safety (Adverse Weather)

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