

1 Purpose	To outline the requirements for working safely around sewage.
2 Application	Applies to all NTPC employees and contractors required to work around sewage.
3 Definitions	<p>Authorized Worker A worker given documented authority by NTPC to conduct specific work.</p> <p>Sewage Water containing excrement, industrial effluent, and debris.</p>
4 References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWT General Sanitation Regulations 1990
5 Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
6 PPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSA-approved safety goggles • CSA-approved face shield • CSA-approved foot protection • CSA-approved air-purifying respirator • Work gloves • Long-sleeve clothing
7 Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-the-job training
8 Work Practice	<p>Introduction Although not a routine task at NTPC, exposure to sewage may occasionally take place: sewage lines can break, septic fields can leak, and plumbing can fail. This work practice is intended for use during emergency cleanup and mitigation of spills.</p> <p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewage and wastewater contain bacteria, fungi, parasites, and viruses that can cause intestinal, lung, and other infections. • If equipment, work practices, and personal protective equipment (PPE) don't protect a worker from swallowing these agents, they can get sick. • Only Authorized Workers shall work around sewage. • Avoid direct contact with sewage, where possible. • Workers handling sewage shall be provided proper PPE, training on how to use it, and hand washing facilities. • Areas where sewage is exposed to workers or the public shall be suitably barricaded to prevent entry of unauthorized

workers or the public.

- Exposure to sewage can result in a number of illnesses, including gastroenteritis (cramping stomach pains, diarrhea, vomiting), skin infection, eye infection, and occupational asthma.
- The most common modes of infection include:
 - Contact with the surfaces of the eyes, nose, and mouth including hand-to-mouth contact (e.g., during eating, drinking, and smoking; by wiping the face with contaminated hands or gloves; or by licking splashes from the skin).
 - Contact with the bloodstream through breaks in the skin (e.g., cuts, scratches).
 - Inhalation of dust or mist.
- Workers shall promptly seek medical attention if displaying any signs or symptoms such as skin rash/pain, skin infection, eye irritation, vomiting, stomach cramps, or watery diarrhea.
- Inform the health care provider that the illness may be due to working around sewage.

Hygiene

- Workers suffering from skin problems shall consult a health care provider before working with sewage.
- Keep fingernails short, and use a stiff soapy brush to clean under fingernails.
- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after handling sewage.
- Avoid touching face, mouth, eyes, nose, or open sores and cuts while handling sewage.
- After handling sewage, wash hands with soap and water before eating or drinking.
- After handling sewage, wash hands with soap and water before and after using the toilet.
- Before eating, remove soiled work clothes and eat in designated areas away from sewage-handling activities.
- Do not smoke, chew tobacco, or chew gum while handling sewage.
- Eat, drink, and smoke in designated areas away from sewage contamination. Keep these areas free from contamination by leaving any protective clothing and boots in a separate area.
- Keep open sores, cuts, and wounds covered with clean, dry

bandages (waterproof if feasible).


- Gently flush eyes with safe water if sewage contacts eyes.
- Remove rubber boots and work clothes before leaving worksite and leave at the worksite.
- Clean contaminated work clothing daily with 0.05% chlorine solution (1 part household bleach to 100 parts water).
- Floors and other surfaces contaminated with sewage shall be decontaminated with a mixture of bleach and water.
- Mops and cleaning rags shall be disposed of. If they are to be reused, they shall be cleaned with bleach and water.

PPE

- The following PPE shall be used by workers handling sewage:
 - Goggles: to protect eyes from splashes of sewage.
 - Protective face mask or splash-proof face shield: to protect nose and mouth from splashes of sewage.
 - Liquid-repellent coveralls: to keep sewage off clothing.
 - Waterproof gloves: to prevent exposure of hands to sewage and to prevent hand injuries (e.g., cuts, abrasions).
 - Rubber boots: to prevent exposure of feet to sewage.
 - Respirator: to prevent inhalation of contaminants. Consult with a member of the Health & Safety Department for assistance in selecting an appropriate respirator.
- Workers shall wash hands with soap and water immediately after removing PPE.

Vaccinations

- Workers who work around sewage shall have up-to-date Tetanus-Diphtheria vaccinations.
- Vaccination recommendations for workers exposed to sewage should be developed in consultation with local health authorities, who will be knowledgeable about local disease threats. Other vaccination requirements may include Tuberculosis, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B.
- As medical records are confidential, NTPC cannot request these records. It is up to the workers to ensure they are vaccinated.

	Safe Work Practice: Working Around Sewage	Page 4 of 5
	Monitor: Director, Health, Safety & Environment	SWP #: 1.29

9 Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nil
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Development

Name	Position	Date
Prepared by: E. Smith	Director, Health, Safety & Environment	Sep. 06, 2016
Reviewed by: A. Crowther	Health & Safety Coordinator	Sep. 06, 2016
Approved by: E. Smith	Director, Health, Safety & Environment	Sep. 06, 2016

Revision History

#	Revised Sections	Description of Revisions	Revised by (name, position)	Approved by (name, position)	Issue Date
01					
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