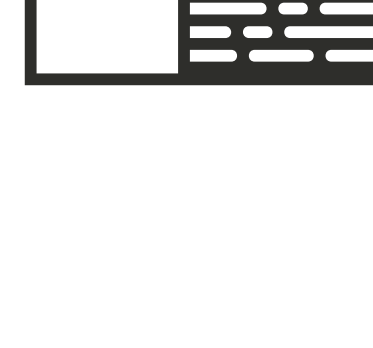


# TOOLBOX TALKS



## PUMPING & OVERPUMPING

### WHAT?

Excavations often require prior dewatering of the ground and / or the pumping out of any rainwater or groundwater collected in them. Both processes require the disposal of water pumped out, which can find its way into a watercourse, or, if contaminated and with prior consent of the Statutory Sewerage Undertaker, it can be discharged to a sewer.

Sections of existing sewers and pipelines are sometimes taken out of service to allow repair or alterations and flows can be maintained by installing temporary pumps and 'overpumping' those sections.



### WHY?

#### AVOID HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT:

Water pumped from excavations can be muddy (silty) and, when the excavations are in previously developed or 'brownfield' land, it can be contaminated. The improper discharge of water polluted by mud or contaminants can cause serious damage to watercourses.

#### AVOID HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT:

Overpumping is often required in maintaining the flows of foul sewage, which, if it is allowed to escape to find its way into a watercourse, can have a devastating effect on wildlife.

#### AVOID PROSECUTION:

It is illegal to allow polluted water to enter a watercourse or surface drain

#### AVOID FLOODING:

If water is discharged into a sewer or gully of insufficient capacity then flooding will occur, potentially causing pollutants to enter watercourses or creating nuisance to site operations.

### DO

Check with your line manager, prior to pumping, whether any treatment systems are required before final discharge of pumped out water. Typical systems include: settlement tanks or lagoons, discharge over grassed areas, through silt socks or hay bales.

Check that the point of discharge is to the correct location, that is to the sewer, manhole or gully as set out by your line manager.

Check that all couplings and other pipework fittings are secure.

Periodically check that any treatment systems are working and that water being finally discharged is clear of silt or solids that may give rise to pollution and is not causing damage to the bed or banks of any watercourse

NOTIFY your line manager immediately if you notice:

- pollution (muddy water, oils etc) occurring;
- the discharge causing flooding; or
- any pipework is damaged or connections have broken or are leaking.

### DON'T

**DON'T** leave pumping operations unattended for long periods unless authorised to do so by your line manager.

**DON'T** continue with overpumping if the receiving sewer or pipeline cannot cope with the capacity.

**DON'T** ignore signs that pollution is occurring, for example muddy water entering watercourses or gullies.

**DON'T** tamper with pipework or discharge points without the authorisation of your line manager.

### TOOLBOX TALKS



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS CONTACT **YOUR SHEQ DEPARTMENT**