

Facilities Management: Risk Assessment Drainage Systems

The people that might be harmed: BBC Studioworks employees, contractors, public, artists

Hazard	Control
<p>Confined spaces</p> <p>Sewage is a major source of harmful micro-organisms including bacteria, viruses and parasites.</p> <p>Gastroenteritis (characterised by cramping stomach pains, diarrhoea and vomiting.</p> <p>Leptospirosis (flu-like illness with persistent and severe headache, transmitted by rat urine. Damage to liver, kidneys and blood may occur and the condition can be fatal.</p> <p>Hepatitis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work involving sewage is avoided where possible and contractors are called in to clear drain blockages etc. • Safe systems of work are ensured and personal protective equipment is provided and worn. This may include waterproof/abrasion – resistant gloves, footwear, eye and respiratory protection. Face visors are particularly effective against splashes. • Any damaged equipment is reported to management and replaced. • Staff are made aware of the risks of working with sewage. • Staff understand that the most common way that the micro-organisms can enter the body is by hand-to-mouth contact during eating, drinking and smoking. They can also enter the body by wiping the face with contaminated hands or gloves, or by licking splashes from the skin or by skin contact through cuts, scratches or penetrating wounds. • Steps are taken to avoid being contaminated with sewage.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff are instructed not to touch their face or smoke, eat or drink unless they have washed their hands and face thoroughly with soap and water.• All exposed wounds are cleansed, however small, and covered with a sterile waterproof dressing.• Staff change out of contaminated clothing before eating, drinking or smoking.• Adequate welfare facilities are provided, including clean water, soap, nailbrushes, disposable paper towels, and where heavy contamination is foreseeable, showers.• Areas for storage of clean and contaminated equipment should be segregated and separate from eating facilities.• Staff are advised to seek medical attention before working with sewage if they suffer from a skin problem.• Contaminated equipment and clothing is cleaned on site.• Staff are to consult their GP in the event of flu-like illness or fever, particularly where associated with severe headache and skin infections. Information, training and supervision is provided.
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