**Safe Work Practice Working Near Sewage**

| **Department/Area:** | **Approved by:** | **Date Created:** | **Review/Revision Date:** |
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| insert text here |  |  |  |

| **Potential Hazard** | **Risk level** |
| --- | --- |
| Awkward/sustained postures - bend, reach, lift |  |
| Forceful exertions - lifting |  |
| Repetitive movements |  |
| Vibration |  |
| Compression |  |
| Sharp points/edges - sharp materials |  |
| Pinch points - bin lids |  |
| Materials falling - bin lids |  |
| Surfaces causing falls - icy, snow in winter |  |
| Moving machinery |  |
| Chemicals |  |
| Biological pathogens - contact with waste |  |
| Electrical |  |
| Extreme heat/cold |  |
| Noise |  |
| Combustibles/flammables |  |
| Risk of falling |  |
| Other |  |

| **Risk control devices, personal protective equipment, and other safety considerations** | **Training/Reference info** |
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|  |  |

**Note:**

Health effects of exposure to sewage and contaminated soil include:

* Tetanus – caused by a toxin produced by bacteria common in soil and sewage.
* Leptospirosis – caused by a parasitic worm.
* [Hepatitis](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/hepatitis_a.html) A, B or C.
* Bacteria such as *E. coli*, and parasites such as *giardia* and *cryptosporidium*.

Human pathogens from soil and raw sewage can enter the body through the nose or mouth, particularly if a person drinks contaminated water or by touching contamination and then touching your mouth or nose. Exposure can also occur through open wounds or by inhaling (human pathogens in dust, for example).

* Avoid exposure to sewage by wearing gloves, coveralls, rubber boots, eye protection, washing your hands, and decontaminating your equipment after use.
* Do not eat or drink while working in a potentially contaminated area. Wash your hands before meals.
* After working with raw sewage or soil, wash immediately with soap and water. Do not use solvents to wash your hands as the solvents can cause irritation that may lead to skin infections. Learn more about [handwashing and the risk of infections](http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/diseases/washing_hands.html).
* Change out of work clothes before leaving the work site. If any sewage has gotten onto your clothes, change them right away. Soiled work clothes should be sealed in a plastic bag and laundered separately from other clothing. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling the clothing.