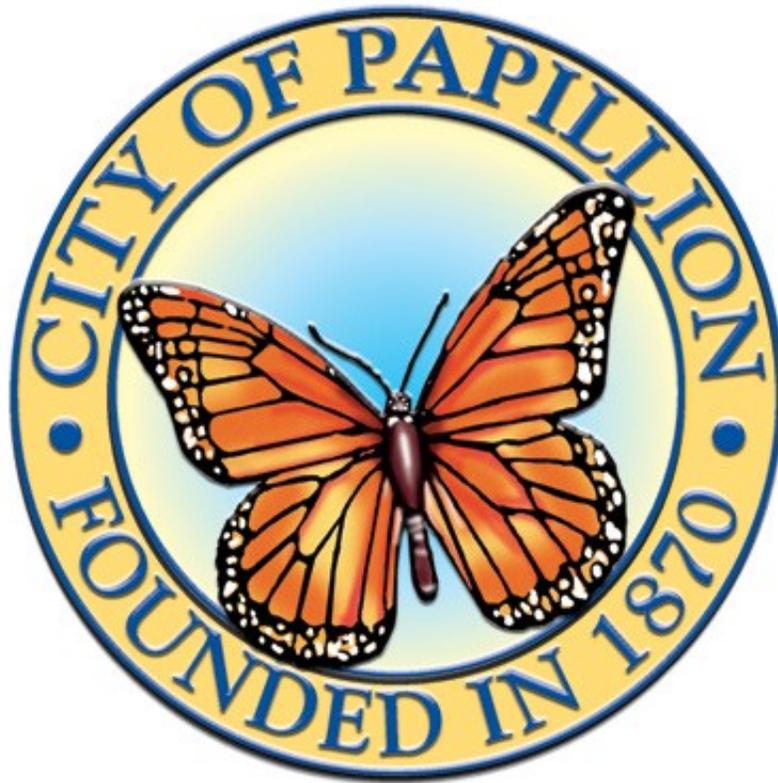


Sewer Backup Management Policy



City of Papillion

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All local governments have a critical responsibility to maintain their sanitary sewer systems—both to protect citizens and city property that may be damaged in the case of sewer backups, and to reduce the city’s exposure to costly claims and litigation.

The municipality has a duty of care to assure that:

- 1) its sewers have been correctly designed and installed,
- 2) the system is adequately maintained through planned inspections and repair,
- 3) an emergency response plan is in place in case of sewer blockage and backup, and
- 4) any property owners affected by sewer backups receive the information and support they need.

The frequency of sewer backup problems has increased in many communities during the last few years. Statistics report that more than 400,000 sanitary sewer overflows occur annually in the United States. This procedural guide is intended to help develop or strengthen the municipality’s plan for prevention of such incidents and for control of general liability losses. Sample guidelines, checklists and report forms have been provided, but should not be relied upon as a substitute for appropriate technical expertise or legal advice. Each ordinance, policy and procedural document should be customized to meet the needs of the municipality and Department of Public Works.

Please contact your Loss Control Consultant if you need further information or assistance.

Sewer Backup Management Policy

It is the accepted responsibility of the City of Papillion to adequately preserve the integrity of its municipal sewer system. Sewers must be kept in good repair and free from obstructions that may hinder the system and cause damage, financial loss or inconvenience to its citizens.

All personnel from the Public Works Department are expected to follow the procedures outlined in this manual, fulfilling their duty to prevent sewer backup incidents to the best of their ability.

It is the responsibility of senior management personnel to assure that appropriate personnel are adequately trained and held accountable for following all required sewer backup prevention procedures.

This policy has been adopted on the 5th day of April, 2011 and amended on the 7th day of June, 2011.



Marty Leming, Director of Public Works



Mark S. Freese, Street Superintendent

System Design:

New sewer system components should be designed by qualified engineers and installed in accordance with accepted engineering specifications.

Repairs or improvements to existing sewer lines must use polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe or other similar, high quality durable materials.

Sewer Use Regulations:

All restaurants, Laundromats, and other appropriate commercial facilities are required to install grease traps (at minimum, applicable to all new or repaired connections). Property owners are prohibited from directing sump pumps and downspouts into the sewer system. The requirements of this regulation should be clearly communicated to all property owners/residents on a periodic basis.

Preventive Inspections, Cleaning & Maintenance:

The formal sewer inspection and cleaning program to be followed should include:

- Schedules for planned inspection routes in every area of the community. Local standards will determine how frequently sewer system lines should be flushed, jetted, or rodded. As a general guideline, it is recommended that inspection and/or maintenance of the public sewer system take place not less than every 4 years.
- Schedules for more frequent inspection of potential problem areas, as identified by the Public Works Director or his/her designee, (e.g. intruding vegetation or tree roots, low spots in sewer lines, excess debris sources, etc.).
- Lift stations should be equipped with power failure and high water alarms that ring to a staffed location or on-call pager. An alternative power source should be available to maintain power during outages.
- A process for monitoring and gauging rainfall so that lift stations and basins have adequate staffing and monitoring during periods of heavy rainfall.
- Visual monitoring of lines with TV cameras on an as-needed basis.
- Cleaning of sewer lines where evidence of impeded water flow is found;
- Procedures for avoiding an excess surge in downstream lines when removing blockage.
- Repair or replacement of system components that have suffered deterioration.

- A log for documenting when each line and manhole has been inspected and cleaned or repaired (see Appendix A: Sewer Inspection and Maintenance Report and Appendix B: Manhole Inspection Checklist)

If an inspection cannot be completed at the scheduled time, the supervisor should be notified immediately and the inspection rescheduled as soon as possible.

Sewer Backup Response Procedures

Office Response to a Citizen Report

Proper response by municipal personnel when an individual home or business owner reports a sewer backup problem can greatly minimize anguish and loss from such incidents. A stressed caller should be treated with consideration and empathy. The call should be accepted or quickly referred.

1. If a call comes to the Public Works Department during normal working hours, the person taking the call will take the name, phone number, and address of the person calling as well as time called and will forward that information to a member of the sewer crew/supervisor. (See Appendix C: Sewer Backup Intake Report)
2. The person responding to the callout is to take the information and call the person having the backup if needed.
3. The response time from the time a call is received by the primary responding party to the time they arrive at the location of the callout will be a maximum of 30 minutes.
4. If the primary responding party determines that additional help is needed because of the severity of the problem, he/she shall call an additional employee for assistance and notify the Public Works Director the next working day.

Field Response to a Sewer Backup Report

Timely action taken by field personnel will vary, depending upon the situation. It is vital that the individual who reported the backup be met calmly, and that full respect is shown for the owner's property and possessions.

Response when the City Line is Flowing

Upon arriving at the address, the sewer crew will pull lids on the upstream and downstream manholes to determine if the city line is flowing. At this time, the sewer crew will flush the city's line. The sewer crew will then go to the house or business and let the caller know that the city line is flowing without obstruction and that they will have to contact a plumber if they are still experiencing a plug.

Response when the City Line is Plugged

1. In the event of a blockage the call-out crew shall make every attempt to open the line. The call-out crew shall not leave a line that is still plugged without the approval of the Public Works Director or his/her designee.
2. If the city line is plugged, the sewer crew will pull lids on the downstream manholes until they find one from which they can flush the city line and will run the flusher hose up the city line until the city line is opened and flowing.

3. A basket or rake should be put in the downstream side of the downstream manhole so that debris from the line does not go through the manhole and plug the next line section.
4. Staff will reel out five feet of hose and install a rubber hose guide (tiger tail) on hose.
5. Staff will install a jet nozzle with standard jets with extension and lower into manhole flow line.
6. Staff will turn water pressure to 1200 psi and release hose reel. The hose should now travel up the line. The operating water pressure should be 1200 psi. This will be sufficient to open most blockages, but in some cases a higher pressure might be indicated. Do not operate the water pressure higher than 1800 psi/2000 psi.
7. Staff will jet to the stoppage using medium reel speed. Once stoppage is felt, pull back the hose with reel. Then release reel lever to hit stoppage again. Repeat until nozzle goes through or breaks loose stoppage. Work nozzle back and forth through blockage at least three times to assure that blockage is loosened and removed. This further assures that the nozzle will not simply go through blockage and pump water upstream of block.
8. If blockage is not removed, staff will use a different nozzle for more striking force until blockage is open.
9. Once the nozzle goes through the stoppage, staff will stop the reel and let the sewer drain down. Do not continue jetting the line segment until water is down to normal flow. Then clean the line as required.
10. Staff will go to the house or business that had the backup and talk to the homeowner/resident, letting them know that the city line was plugged. Staff will give the homeowner/resident a "Report of Property Damage/Filing of Claims" card and a "Coping with a Sewer Line Backup" brochure. (See Appendix J1 and J2)
11. In the event a residence as defined in the Papillion Zoning Code 205-30 and building used primarily as religious assemblies as defined in the same code is damaged as a result of a blockage in a city sewer line, the city shall:
 - a) Retain the services of a restoration company to mitigate water damage as a result of the backup;
 - b) Advise the property owner that if they have a claim for additional damage they should file a claim pursuant to the tort claim procedure;
 - c) Homeowners shall remain responsible for damages that result from a blockage in the line between their home and the city line.

12. Never discuss matters of legal claims or liability for damage. Explain that the City Attorney will investigate and make final decisions regarding responsibility based on the facts.
13. Answer any questions the homeowner/resident might have. Keep answers brief and to the point. Do not indicate to the homeowner/resident that they will be reimbursed for damages. Damage claim questions should be referred to the City Attorney.
14. Staff will inspect the basement for damage. Complete the "Onsite Sewer Backup Assessment/Sewer Plug Report" and later the "Sewer Backup Follow-up Investigation". (See Appendix D and Appendix E) This is not intended to be the basis for paying a claim to the property owner; it allows the City Attorney to verify the accuracy of the claim and the degree of any damage.
15. If the homeowner or resident asks for suggestions for repair or cleanup companies, do not make recommendations. Suggest they check the yellow pages.
16. If it is determined by the Public Works Director or his/her designee that, during the course of sewer maintenance or repair operations, a sewer plug was caused by negligence, the City will immediately facilitate the cleanup and associated costs by contacting the appropriate capable companies.

Documenting the Backup

1. All documentation must be completed at the time of the backup. It is extremely important that addresses, street names, and homeowner/resident names are correct and included in the documentation. This assists in both reviewing the damage claim and evaluating the problem line for preventative and corrective maintenance.
2. Within 24 hours, the Public Works Director or his/her designee will discuss with the call-out crew all information about the backup including how it was jetted, from which manhole, if done with the flow, if there are drop pipes in the manhole, or any other pertinent information that follow-up personnel need to know, such as TV follow-up and PM dates.

Any of the following, or a combination thereof, may be done for preventative maintenance on the city line that was backed up:

- Televis city line for possible problems
- Root saw line if needed after televising
- Put on schedule for root foaming if line was root sawed
- Put line on six month or yearly schedule if needed
- Repair line if needed

3. The Public Works Director or his/her designee will do the following:
 - Complete the “Onsite Sewer Backup Assessment/Sewer Plug Report” (See Appendix D.)
 - Give a copy to the superintendent
 - Give a copy to the City Clerk and City Attorney

Sewer Backup Investigations

Documented sewer backup incident investigations are important for preserving the integrity of the sewer system, for providing the City Attorney with information, and for reducing the risk of litigation against the municipality.

1. An analysis of the frequency and severity of sewer backup incidents can provide information to identify vulnerable areas of the system, the need for changes in inspection schedules, or a lack of accountability by City personnel.
2. Accurate information helps the City Attorney establish claim responsibility. If a claims examiner is contacted by a claimant, it is critical that they have been prepared with accurate information about the incident so they can discuss liability issues and options for the claimant.
3. All sewer backup reports received and investigations completed should be immediately documented and reported to the City Administrator within 24 hours of a claim.
 - The initial report should indicate the time of the complaint, name of caller, personnel that received the complaint, and to whom the complaint was forwarded. (See Appendix C: Sewer Backup Intake Report)
 - The onsite investigation should be thoroughly documented at the time of the site visit, answering all questions on the checklist that can be determined. (See Appendix D: Onsite Sewer Backup Assessment)
 - Additional follow-up investigations may also be important—particularly if there has been any question as to responsibility for the backup, or if something could be done to improve future responses. (See Appendix E: Sewer Backup Follow-up Investigation)
4. Copies of all reports, documentation and causal evidence should be forwarded to the Public Works Director. Copies should be forwarded to the City Clerk and City Attorney once a claim has been filed.

Sewer Backup Emergency Response Plan

An emergency response plan should be developed to assure that applicable personnel are prepared to take timely and efficient action in the case of a sewer backup incident. The plan should include at least the following:

- Designated Public Works response personnel, including names and emergency phone numbers;
- Back up personnel to be contacted should those in primary positions be unreachable
- Specialty contractor information that may be needed for plumbing/sewer line repair, cleanup or engineering consultation. Contractors' business and emergency home numbers should be on record;
- Names and telephone numbers of any regulatory or environmental agency that should be informed of a sewer backup or wastewater problem in the region;
- Name of the Public Works Director or his/her designee who is authorized to speak to the media in the event of a major problem that may effect the larger community or citizen lives. All personnel should know the name of the authorized media spokesperson.
- A list of all emergency cleanup or pumping equipment, and where it is stored.
- A power failure backup system should be in place, as well as a failure alarm system for all lift stations, or sewer pump stations.
- Alarms should ring to a staffed location, or 24-hour "on call" pager.
- Lift Station code requirements can be acquired by contacting your state government.

Responsibility vs. Liability:

Municipalities may be held responsible for damages that arise from *preventable* sewage backups in the public sewer system. A municipality has a duty to exercise “*ordinary and reasonable care*” to keep its sewers free from obstructions. This generally equates to responsible sewer system repair and maintenance. However, although failure to meet repair and maintenance duties may create “ordinary negligence,” it does not necessarily mean the municipality is strictly liable in cases of sewer backups and resulting damage to property.

Some of the city’s legal protection is due to the fact that volumes of rainwater alone can cause a backup. A municipality is not obligated to build a system that is large enough to carry away all water that may result from even normal rainfall. The municipality also has immunity when it comes to the building and initial construction of sewer systems—these are legislative functions. In any litigation regarding sewer backup, a claimant must establish the *negligence* of the municipality.

Nevertheless, in some municipalities, sewer backups have led to costly and time consuming legal action against the municipality by its citizens. The backup of raw sewage into a building, onto municipal streets or into nearby surface water, carries the potential for serious health, safety and environmental problems. Such events are subject to regulations by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as well as state and local agencies. In some cases, where flooding problems have been traceable to the city’s negligent operation of the systems, the courts have denied governmental immunity and required the municipality to pay damages. This document cannot address specific prosecutions. The highly technical legal issues associated with some of these suits can best be explained by legal council.

Liability Questions from Property Owners:

All municipal personnel should be instructed *never* to discuss findings or observations about the causes of a sewer backup with a claimant or the claimant’s service provider. This is an important aspect of personnel training. Incident investigation reports should be promptly completed and forwarded to the municipality’s carrier. If a citizen raises questions about legal responsibility, they should be advised that the tort claim committee will complete an investigation into the legal liability, coverage and damage. Department personnel are not qualified to discuss liability. The carrier’s claims representative will discuss these issues with claimants on behalf of the municipality.

Keys to Avoiding Litigation:

The most important thing to remember is, the negligence test is less likely to be found, and litigation against the municipality is less likely to take place if:

- A regular maintenance program is in place;

- Inspections and repairs are thoroughly documented;
- Reports of problems are given quick response;
- Citizens are treated with courtesy, consideration and given requested information;
- Insurance carriers are provided with timely sewer backup reports so that questions from claimants can be promptly answered.

Employee Qualifications and Training:

Public Works employees must meet all Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and local Department of Health qualifications for licensing and should receive regular, updated training in:

- Cleaning and inspection methods and procedures;
- The use of cleaning equipment;
- All aspects of the Emergency Response Plan;
- Appropriate measures to take for cleaning up a sewer backup incident and minimizing further damage;
- Education in the source and control of bloodborne pathogens, including use of personal protective equipment.
- Designated personnel should be trained to investigate conditions that might have caused the backup, and to record the extent of property damage.
- Employees must thoroughly understand that the municipality is not responsible for blockages/problems that occur in the service lateral, which is not considered to be part of the public sewer system, but is a private line for which the property owner is responsible.
- Employees must also be trained to understand the importance of providing citizens with courteous, accurate information about responsibility for backups, but must refer legal or liability questions to claims adjusters.
- All training should be documented and updated at least annually and as recommended by your state or federal government.

Community Education:

Information should also be provided to municipal residents through general education brochures, or in flyers for residents who have suffered back-flow problems. Among other facts of interest, these brochures should explain:

- What may cause sewer backup problems;
- How to help prevent sewer backup incidents by avoiding the deposit of grease or bulky non-soluble items down household drains or toilets;
- The value of back-flow preventers for below-ground building levels and drains, and techniques for periodically inspecting them;
- How and where to report a sewage backup problem;
- How to purchase sewer backup endorsements through an insurance agent.

(See Appendix G: General Information for Homeowners & Residents)

1. The **American Water Works Association (AWWA)** 6666 West Quincy Ave, Denver, Colorado 80235, Phone: (800) 926-7337(4) Fax: (303) 794-8915, www.awwa.org.

The AWWA is an international nonprofit scientific and educational society dedicated to the improvement of drinking water quality and supply. Members represent treatment plant operators and managers, scientists, regulators, environmentalists, manufacturers, academicians, and others interested in water supply and public health. This website offers technical resources, conference papers, online training for the water industry, and a variety of electronic links of interest to the drinking water community.

www.awwa.org/links.cfm lists all existing utility districts by State/Province, with links to each individual water district's Web page. This page also directly links to dozens of other Web pages for government updates, water related news, water quality and pollution, international water sites, water resources and education sites, water related organizations and much more.

2. **Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association**, www.rmwea.org/rmwea/RMWEA.htm

Founded in 1936 as the Rocky Mountain Sewage Works Association, RMWEA provides its members in Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico with current information on water quality issues, technology, regulatory changes, and the latest research developments. RMWEA is a Member Association of the Water Environment Federation, (WEF) an international organization with over 40,000 members worldwide.

3. **National Environmental Health Association**, 720 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 970-S., Denver, CO 80246-1925, 303-756-9090, www.neha.org

The National Environmental Health Association (**NEHA**) had its origins in the state of California where it was incorporated in 1937 to establish a standard of excellence for environmental health practitioners. Today, the association offers seven national credential programs for technicians and a variety of educational conferences, workshops and publications.

4. **Local Government Environmental Assistance Network**, www.lgean.org

The Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN) is a "first-stop shop" providing environmental management, planning, funding, and regulatory information for local government elected and appointed officials, managers and staff. LGEAN enables local officials to interact with their peers and others online. It also manages a toll-free telephone service (877/865-4326) and has a Consultants Directory that enables local government officials and other users to identify and contact consultants who perform specific environmental services.

5. **California State University Sacramento Office of Water Programs**, www.owp.csus.edu/

The Office of Water Programs at the (CSUS) College of Engineering and Computer Science provides distance learning courses for persons interested in the operation and maintenance of drinking water and wastewater facilities. Their training programs were developed for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by people who explain, through the use of manuals and videos, how they operate and maintain their facilities.

6. **Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies**, 1816 Jefferson Place, NW, Washington D.C. 20036-2505, Phone: (202) 833-AMSA, Fax (202) 833-4657, www.amsa-cleanwater.org

AMSA represents the interests of over 300 public agencies and organizations whose objective is scientifically based, technically sound and cost effective laws and regulations for clean water. AMSA maintains a key role in the development of environmental legislation, and works closely with federal regulatory agencies in the implementation of environmental programs. Membership, conferences and publications are offered on the Web site.

7. **American Public Works Association**, www.apwa.net

The APWA is an international educational and professional association of public agencies, private sector companies, and individuals dedicated to providing high quality public works goods and services. With 67 chapters throughout North America, APWA provides a forum in which public works professionals can exchange ideas, improve professional competency, increase the performance of their agencies and companies, and bring important public works-related topics to public attention in local, state and federal arenas. Current and archived reports of legislative activities are listed and described on the site.

8. **United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wastewater Management**, www.epa.gov/OWM/

The EPA's Wastewater Management Web Page features a variety of types of information for the water industry. An index links to a long list of alphabetized water topics, including Sanitary System Overflow. A showcase provides information for environmental educators regarding outstanding products related to nonpoint water pollution. Resources come in a variety of formats -- publications, videos, classroom materials, etc.

9. **Water Environment Federation (WEF)**, Alexandria, VA, (800) 666-0206, www.wef.org

Founded in 1928, WEF is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization with members from varied disciplines who work toward the WEF vision of preservation and enhancement of the global water environment. The WEF network includes more than 100,000 water quality

professionals from 79 Member Associations in 32 countries. The Website lists workshops, conferences and water legislation updates.

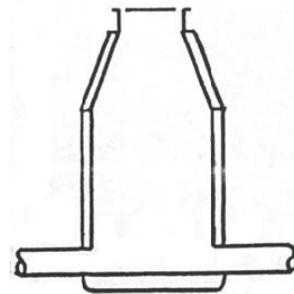
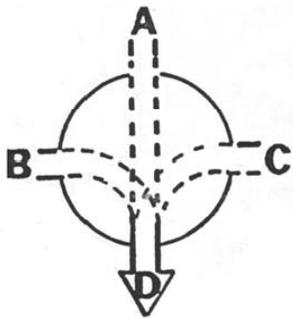
SEWER INSPECTION & MAINTENANCE REPORT

Date of Inspection:	Time of Inspection: a.m./p.m.									
Name of Employee Completing Report:										
Location (be specific by line(s), manhole #(s), etc.):										
Reason for inspection or maintenance (routine, scheduled, preventive, overflow, problem history, etc.):										
Conditions found (both usual and unusual):										
Unusual conditions were reported immediately to the following supervisor(s):										
List inspection or maintenance work performed:										
List equipment used:										
List personnel who performed inspection or maintenance:										
Other information:										
Follow-up action needed at this location:										
<p>Based on conditions found during this visit, it is recommended that this location be inspected or maintained again within:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1 month</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 9 months</td> <td style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> 24 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 3 months</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 12 months</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 36 months</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 6 months</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 18 months</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> 1 month	<input type="checkbox"/> 9 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 36 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 months	<input type="checkbox"/> 18 months	
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MANHOLE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Manhole #(s):	Date:	Time:	Inspector:
Elevation:	Depth to Invert:	Cleanliness:	
Type of Construction:		Street References:	

Item Inspected	Repairs Needed	Manhole #(s)	Repairs Made	Date Repairs Made
<i>Example</i>	A. Item A. B. Item B. C. Item C.	#1, #5, #7	#1 – A #5 – B #7 – C	00/00/00
Ring & Cover (List Size & Type)	A. Replace cover B. Replace ring C. Replace both D. Opening offset			
Chimney & Barrel Sections	A. Loose brick B. Corrosion on concrete C. Mortar joints loose D. Loose/missing steps			
Bench & Channel	A. Grease buildup B. Concrete bad C. Debris in channel (i.e. grit, rocks, etc.) D. Broken pipe in trough			



	Pipe Size	Length	To Manhole #	Est. Flow	Type Flow
A					
B					
C					
D					

Remarks:

SEWER BACKUP INTAKE REPORT

Complete this checklist each time a backup is reported. Help the caller to remain calm and be rational. Show empathy, and maintain a professional manner. Never insinuate or admit any fault on the part of either the caller or the municipality.

Name of Caller: _____

Caller's Address: _____

Caller's Phone No.: _____

Date of Call: _____ Time of Call: _____ a.m./p.m.

Approximate Date & Time (if different from above): _____ a.m./p.m.

Location of Overflow (basement, restroom, laundry room, etc.): _____

Property at Risk or Affected by the Overflow: _____

Is the Overflow Expanding, Stationary, or Receding? _____

What has or is being done by the caller or others? _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CALLER

1. Instruct the caller to take proper precautions to minimize loss and potential health effects:
 - Keep children, pets, and others out of the overflow.
 - Electrical appliances in affected areas present an electrocution hazard.
 - Move uncontaminated property away from the overflow area.
2. Clearly communicate who will be out to the site and approximately when they should arrive.
3. Explain what area(s) they will need to have access to.
4. Explain how the action to be taken is dependent upon the location of the blockage:
 - If blockage is in the municipality's main lines, it will be promptly cleaned.
 - If blockage is in the owner's lateral line, the municipality cannot work on private property.
 - In that case, inform callers that they must contact a local sewer service or cleanup firm.
You may wish to offer a prepared list of cleaning contractors (without recommendations).
5. Give the caller your name, title, and phone number.
6. Never respond to questions about legal responsibility. Explain that the municipality's insurance provider will investigate any responsibility for the backup.
7. Record the information in a daily or weekly incident log.
8. Quickly refer the call, and forward a copy of this report to the appropriate field office.

ONSITE SEWER BACKUP ASSESSMENT / SEWER PLUG REPORT

*(To be completed after the backup problem is corrected.
Complete one assessment for each property involved.)*

**Use the buddy system when entering a private residence or business.
Do not track sewage to uncontaminated areas of the property.**

Location:	Date: Time:
	Who Received the Call:
Reporting Party:	Address:
	Phone:
Was Upper Manhole Checked?	Circle Which Line the Stoppage Was In:
Was Lower Manhole Checked?	City Customer Both
What Appeared to Cause the Stoppage?	
Did Water Back Up in Any Basements?	If So, How Many?
List Address(es):	
List Equipment Used to Clear the Line:	City Employees Who Worked on Stoppage:
Time Spent on Project:	Conditions of Manholes:
Conditions of Sewer Lines:	
What Steps Should Be Taken to Prevent Reoccurrence:	
Additional Comments:	

INFORMATION FOR THE PROPERTY OWNER / RESIDENT

1. Instruct the caller to take proper precautions to minimize loss and potential health effects:
 - Keep children, pets, and others out of the overflow.
 - Electrical appliances in affected areas present an electrocution hazard.
 - Move uncontaminated property away from the overflow area.
2. Clearly communicate that if the blockage is in the municipality's main lines it will be promptly cleared, but if the blockage is in the property owner's lateral line, municipal employees will not be allowed to clear it. In that case, property owners/residents must contract a local sewer service or cleanup firm.
3. Suggest using the yellow pages or offer a prepared list of cleaning contractors, without making recommendations.
4. Show concern and empathy for the property owner/resident, but do not admit or deny liability. Remain calm and professional, even if the property owner/resident is distraught and emotional; if violent, leave the site and call for assistance.
5. Give the property owner/resident your name, title, and phone number for future reference.
6. Provide the resident with a copy of the flyer "Information for Homeowners & Residents - Facts about Sewer Backup Incidents".
7. Forward a copy of this report to the appropriate office and insurance carrier.

SEWER BACKUP FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

Following an overflow incident, a full investigation may indicate additional follow-up actions to be taken, suggest procedural changes that could improve future responses, and provide full information to claims adjusters.

Location/Address of Overflow: _____

Property Owner's Name: _____

Property Owner's Phone No.: _____

Onsite Response Personnel: _____

Date of Onsite Response: _____

Date the municipality was first notified of the problem? How notified?	
What action was taken when notified, and when?	
What was the apparent extent of damage to property?	
What was the apparent cause of the backup?	
What methods of investigation were used (visual, video, etc.)?	
Was this problem found to be in the main or the lateral?	
Have there been prior problems with blockage in the main? When?	

INFORMATION FOR HOMEOWNERS & RESIDENTS FACTS ABOUT SEWER BACKUP INCIDENTS

Sewer backups are an unfortunate but common problem in U.S. cities and towns. Although municipal departments make every effort to prevent such incidents, they still may occur. The following information is offered to help property owners and residents understand why backups happen, how they can be prevented, and what steps citizens should take if a sewer backup affects their property. The following questions and answers may be helpful:

What causes a sewer backup?

Sanitary sewer overflows can be caused by a number of factors. They usually involve sewer pipe blockages in either main sewer lines or service laterals (lines between buildings and the main line). Causes may include pipe breaks or cracks due to tree roots, system deterioration, insufficient system capacity due to residential or commercial growth, or construction mishaps. In home and office plumbing systems, the main cause is accumulation of grease, tree roots, hair, or solid materials, such as disposable diapers or sanitary napkins that are too large for wastewater pipes to handle. Such materials may cause major backups in City lines as well as in residents' lateral lines. A frequent cause of water stoppages within the City's system, however, is vandalism. Leaves, sticks, rocks, bricks and trash have been found stuffed down manholes. We hope you will report observations of any such activity.

How could a sewer backup affect me?

If the backup occurs in a City maintained line, the wastewater will normally overflow out of the lowest possible opening, which is usually a manhole. However, in some homes—especially those with basements, or where the lowest level is even with the sewer lines—the overflowing wastewater may exit through the home's lower drains and toilets.

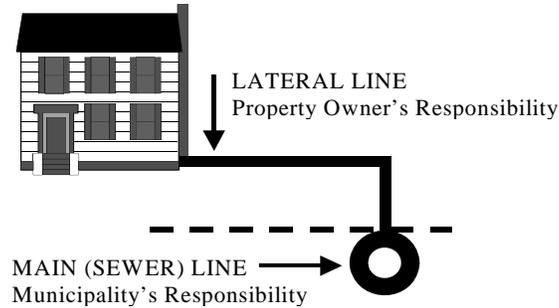
What should I do if sewage backs up into my home?

First, take action to protect people and valuable property:

- Keeping in mind that ceramic plumbing fixtures such as toilets are fragile, quickly close all drain openings with stoppers or plugs. Tub, sink, and floor drains may need additional weight to keep them sealed. A string mop can be used to help plug toilet openings.
- Don't run any water down your drains until the blockage has been cleared.
- A quick check with nearby neighbors will help determine if the backup appears to be in your neighbor's wastewater line, and/or widespread in your neighborhood. In this case, call the Department of Public Works immediately. Numbers are listed at the end of this flyer.
- Call a plumber if the problem is in your lateral service line.

If I call the city, what will they do about a sewer backup onto my property?

- You will be asked questions about the backup timing, location, the property at risk, etc.
- City personnel will check for blockages in the main line. If found, the blockage will be immediately cleared.
- If the main line is not blocked, you will be advised to call a plumbing or sewer contractor to check your lateral line. Maintenance and repair of the lateral line is the owner's responsibility. (See diagram below.)
- To minimize damage and negative health effects, you should arrange for cleanup of the property as soon as possible. There are qualified businesses that specialize in this type of cleanup.
- If the sewer backup onto your property resulted from blockage in the main sewer line, city personnel will explain what the city can immediately do to help take care of the problem.



Is there anything I can do to prevent sewage backup into my home?

- Avoid putting grease down your garbage disposal or household drain. It can solidify, collect debris and accumulate in City lines, or build up in your own system.
- Never flush disposable diapers, sanitary napkins or paper towels down the toilet. They could stop up your drains and may damage your plumbing system.
- If the lateral line in your older home has a jointed pipe system, consider whether the roots of large shrubs or trees near the line could invade and break pipes. It is a good idea to know the location of your lateral line(s). Property maps can often be acquired from your city planning department.
- If the lowest level of your home is below ground level, such as a basement floor drain, it may one day be affected by a backup. One way to prevent sewage backup through such below ground areas is to install a “backflow prevention valve” on the lowest drain(s). You can also use a plumber’s test plug to close these drains when not in use.
- For further information about preventive measures, contact a plumber or plumbing supply dealer.

What does the municipality do to prevent this problem?

- Every attempt is made to prevent backups in the public wastewater system before they occur. Sewer lines are specially designed to prevent accumulation and stoppages.
- In addition, we have maintenance crews that are devoted to inspecting and cleaning wastewater lines throughout the City on a regular schedule.
- Degreasing chemicals are also injected into lines in areas that are prone to stoppages, such as those near restaurants, apartments or high density housing developments.
- Even with our maintenance schedule, however, backups are often beyond the City’s control. Most that do occur are confined to the sewage pipeline, rather than backing up into a home.

Will insurance cover any damage to my home or property?

In the majority of cases, a special rider will need to be added to your homeowner’s or renter’s insurance policy to cover damages related to sewage backups or water damage. This optional coverage is usually not very expensive, but you must usually request that it be added to your policy. Check with your insurance agent about this policy provision.

As with the majority of municipalities in the country, the City cannot assume financial responsibility for damages resulting from sewage backups, since most stoppages are related to conditions that are beyond the City’s control. That is why it is important that property owners confirm that they are adequately insured—particularly if areas of their home lie below ground level. Call your insurance agent today to have this coverage added to your policy.

How and where should I report a sewer backup?

Emergency crews are on call 24 hours a day to assist you. In case of an emergency such as a sewer line backup, or if you observe any vandalism associated with the wastewater or sewer lines, contact the City of Papillion Public Works Department at (402) 597-2043.

TRAINING REVIEW - SEWER BACKUP INCIDENTS

1. According to the Governmental Immunity doctrine, the municipality is legally responsible for damages that are caused
by _____ in the maintenance of public sewer systems.

2. List at least three (3) basic steps a municipality should take to maintain the integrity of its wastewater system:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

3. Name three (3) requirements of our Sewer Use Ordinance that are the responsibility of property owners:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

4. In our community, how often are sewer systems to be inspected for maintenance and repair purposes?

5. List three (3) basic steps that should be taken onsite, when responding to a sewer backup report:
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____

6. If a sewer backup is found to have been caused by blockage in the city's main line, what information should be conveyed to the property owner/resident?

7. If a sewer backup is found to have been caused by blockage in the property's lateral line, whose

responsibility is
it to correct the
problem? _____

8. List three (3) things residents can do to help prevent sewer backup problems:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

9. Name three (3) reasons why thorough, documented follow-up investigations of backups can be invaluable:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

TRAINING REVIEW - SEWER BACKUP INCIDENTS (ANSWER KEY)

1. According to the Governmental Immunity doctrine, the municipality is legally responsible for damages that are caused by Negligence in the maintenance of public sewer system.

2. List at least three (3) basic steps a municipality should take to maintain the integrity of its wastewater system:
 - 1) Assure that sewers are correctly designed and installed
 - 2) Enforce a Community Sewer Use Ordinance
 - 3) Maintain an adequate schedule of inspections and repairs
 - 4) Provide Sewer Policy & Procedures training for employees
 - 5) Monitor rainfall for adequate staffing of pump stations

3. Name three (3) requirements of our Sewer Use Ordinance that are the responsibility of property owners:
 - 1) Back-flow preventers required for all new construction
 - 2) All restaurants and Laundromats must install grease traps in new or repaired connections
 - 3) Sump pumps and downspouts may not be directed into the sewer system

4. In our community, how often are sewer systems to be inspected for maintenance and repair purposes?
(to be determined by each municipality, 18 – 36 months is recommended)

5. List at least three (3) basic steps to be taken onsite, when responding to a sewer backup report:
 - 1) Treat property owners with consideration and respect their anxieties.
 - 2) Explain what the crew will be looking for
 - 3) Take steps to protect people and property at risk
 - 4) Investigate and determine the cause of the backup

-
- 5) *Correct the problem if it is in the main line*
-
6. If a sewer backup is found to have been caused by blockage in the city's main line, what information should be conveyed to the property owner/resident? *Explain that a complete report of the incident will be forwarded to our insurance coordinator.*
-
7. If a sewer backup is found to have been caused by blockage in the property's lateral line, whose responsibility is it to correct the problem? *The resident/property owner. (Our employees cannot work on private property)*
-
8. List three (3) things residents can do to help prevent sewer backup problems:
1. *Avoid putting grease down drains or garbage disposals.*
 2. *Never flush disposable diapers, sanitary napkins or paper towels down the toilet.*
 3. *Avoid planting trees or large shrubs over lateral sewer lines*
 4. *Install back-flow preventers in drains located below ground level*
 5. *Periodically have drains cleaned out in older homes*
 6. *Purchase an insurance coverage endorsement for sewer backup damage*
-
9. Name three (3) reasons why thorough, documented follow-up investigations of backups can be invaluable:
- 1) *They can help analyze the need for changes in the sewer maintenance or management system.*
 - 2) *They can help the insurance carrier accurately determine claim responsibility*
 - 3) *They can provide critical documentation in the event of litigation against the municipality*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRAINING

I, _____ (please print), hereby acknowledge that I have received the appropriate general sewer and sewer backup training in order to perform my job duties correctly and safely. I further acknowledge that I have received training on the sewer jet equipment.

Employee Signature

Date

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRAINING

I, _____ (please print), hereby acknowledge that I have received the appropriate training on the sewer vacuum unit.

Employee Signature

Date



CITY OF PAPIILLION

Report of Property Damage • Filing of Claims

If you have had damage to your property because of a sanitary sewer backup, you may file a claim in writing with the City Clerk's Office at 122 East Third Street, Papillion, NE 68046 (402-597-2021). You will need to supply the following information in a detailed report:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Claimant's Name | 9. Time of Incident |
| 2. Claimant's Address | 10. Detailed Timeline of Incident |
| 3. Claimant's Phone Number | 11. Amount of Claim Requested |
| 4. Claimant's Insurance Company | 12. Witnesses of Incident |
| 5. Claimant's Insurance Policy Number | 13. Any bills, statements, estimates |
| 6. Date of Incident | 14. Any Photographs, Videos |
| 7. Notification from Claimant's Insurance Company of submittal of claim | |
| 8. Location of Incident if different from Claimant's address | |

Your claim should be filed in a timely manner. The filing of a claim does not guarantee reimbursement of any type. If you have questions regarding sewer service or a sewer backup, contact Marty Leming, Papillion Public Works Department, 145 West Second Street, Papillion, NE 68046 (402-597-2043).



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- Wet-vacuum or remove spillage.
- Operate wet vacuums only when plugged into a ground fault circuit interrupter or ground fault equipped outlet.
- Mop bare floors and wipe walls with a bleach solution, soap and disinfectants. Bleach solutions (one part bleach to ten parts water) are the most effective disinfectants, but may cause discoloration of many materials.
- Flush out and disinfect plumbing fixtures.
- Remove and discard carpet and steam clean or discard drapes.
- Remove and discard upholstered furniture and porous wood furniture stained by sewage.
- Sanitize and clean hardwood furniture, then thoroughly wipe, dry and apply an oil-based wood polish.
- Sanitize and repair, or remove and discard, paneling, wallboard or wall coverings.
- Clean up appliances or ductwork. If electric motors, wiring or insulation have been saturated have a qualified service technician to remove the motor, dry it, and inspect for damage before plugging them back in and turning them on.
- Ventilate the affected area with floor fans and a dehumidifier, if available, to properly dry the area. If it has not been directly contacted by water, activate the building's heating,

ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system, turn on exhaust or ceiling fans and open windows and doors when conditions are favorable.

- Do not use heat to dry closed building interiors; mildew and expanded water damage may result.
- After the initial cleaning, a second sanitized cleaning should take place.

As a precaution, homeowners are encouraged to contact their insurance company to verify they have adequate coverage should they experience damage from a sewer back up.

**For More Information Call:
402-597-2043**



COPING WITH A SEWER LINE BACKUP



City of Papillion
Public Works Department
145 West Second Street
Papillion, NE 68046
402-597-2043

COPING WITH A SEWER BACKUP

If you have a backup, call us at 597-2043 to report your address. If calling after business hours, you will hear a list of emergency numbers to call. Once notified, we will promptly dispatch a maintenance crew to your address to find out if the stoppage is in the City of Papillion's main or your private line (sewer lateral).

If the sewer main is found to be clear, the property owner has the responsibility to call a licensed plumber or drain service to correct the problem. The City of Papillion cannot recommend any plumber. Check your Yellow Pages or Business White Pages.

The City of Papillion will not pay for private plumber bills unless the City of Papillion directs that a plumber be called to solve a problem that is the City's responsibility. If the stoppage is in the City main we will fix it as quickly as possible and keep you informed about what is being done.

A sewer backup creates a stressful and emotional situation for all affected parties. Potentially it may cause health and safety exposures as well as significant property loss. Proper responses to sewer backups can greatly minimize losses from negative health effects and property damages. Every

backup is unique and will require different responses but there are some universal principles that can be applied to all situations.

Sewer backup can lead to disease, destruction of your valuables, damage to your house, and the risk of electrocution. Prompt cleanup of affected property can help minimize the inconvenience and damage.

You should immediately arrange for a thorough, professional, sanitized cleanup of your affected property.

- If a dishwasher, washing machine, shower, bathtub, toilet or other water fixture is operating, shut it off immediately.
- Quickly close all drain openers with stoppers or plugs. Tub, sink and floor drains may need additional weight to keep them sealed. A string mop can be used to help plug toilets.
- Keep children and animals out of the affected area.
- Potential health and safety hazards must be identified and, if possible, eliminated prior to implementing cleaning or restoration procedures. Before entering the affected area the potential for electrical shock hazards and gas leaks must be assessed.
- Unplug all electrical appliances, small electrical devices on wet floor covering or other wet areas and turn off the circuit breakers supplying electricity to affected areas.

- Turn off the gas (or other fuel source) to your furnace or heater and hot water heater.
- Call the Public Works Office at 597-2043. Their employees will check to make sure the main lines are not plugged.
- Move any uncontaminated property away from the affected areas.
- Take before-and-after photos of the affected areas.

Sewage and floodwaters contain bacteria and other hazardous microorganisms. These can be transmitted by touching contaminated items or by tracking them into uncontaminated areas on shoes. Children and pets are especially vulnerable. Frequent hand washing with hot, soapy water is an important preventative measure. Cleaning and sanitizing is most effective when performed by professional service companies. Check your Yellow Pages or Business White Pages for reputable Service Company. A thorough cleanup should include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Wear waterproof boots or waders and heavy-duty rubber gloves and eye protection. To remove gloves, turn them inside out, without touching the contaminated exterior. Dispose of them properly.
- Treat all water soaked surfaces, furnishings and items as unhealthy until properly cleaned and sanitized.
- Do not use any electrical equipment while standing in water.