

Job Name: _____ Job Site Location: _____

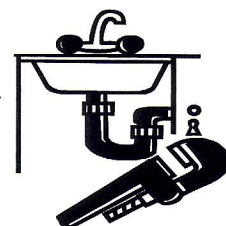
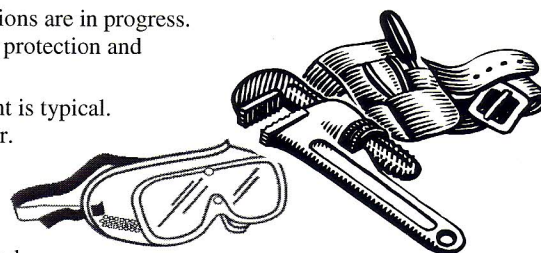
Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Finish Time: _____ Foreman/Supervisor: _____

Topic 70: Safe Practices for Sewer Augers

Introduction: Anytime work is done on drains and sewers, exposure to chemical and biological hazards and contaminants is possible. Sewer and drain clearing operations expose service personnel to a large variety of risks. Additionally, exposure to toxic substances that were used for drain clearing and maintenance will still be present and pose safety concerns to workers who may come in contact with them. Attention to detail is of utmost importance to avoid potential injury and/or illness.

The following are specific safety concerns for sewer and drain auguring operations.

- **Drain augers** come in various sizes and are medium speed, spinning rotary equipment.
- **The large units** are very powerful and are capable of serious harm. Keep well clear when units are in operation.
- **When loading equipment** on and off trucks, proper lifting techniques should be employed. Larger mainline units can be heavy and cumbersome. Always enlist the help of others when possible and spare your back by following proper lifting techniques.
- **Serious bodily injury** and property damage could result from the use of equipment that has not been maintained properly.
- **It is important** that auger equipment is continuously maintained and in good serviceable condition for operation.
- **Avoid using** equipment with loose fittings, covers, or missing parts. Always carry a tool box and re-tighten or replace loose or missing fasteners.
- **Choose clothing appropriate** for using augers and like machinery. Avoid wearing loose, floppy shirts and pants as they can easily get caught up in the equipment. Long hair should be carefully tied back and out of the way to avoid contact with equipment. Remove dangling jewelry.
- **Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment** must always be worn when augering operations are in progress. Careful attention should be given to the use of personal protective equipment such as eye protection and hand protection to avoid contact with contaminated water and/or other chemical hazards.
- **Full coverage eye protection** should always be used. Flying debris from rotary equipment is typical. In addition to debris, infection from contaminated water and waste splash can easily occur.
- **Hand Protection** should consist of good quality, snug fitting gloves to help avoid cuts, scratches, and infections. Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face.
- **Ensure that all cords**, plugs and switches be properly grounded and in good condition. Be sure each circuit is properly rated for equipment. Ideally, a GFCI circuit should be used.
- **Water associated** with drain clearing, auger operations is a biohazard and should always be considered contaminated. Residual chemicals from cleaners used by the customer may still be present prior to service work. Exposure to residual chemicals may cause skin irritation, allergic reactions, and/or respiratory problems. Over time, continued unprotected exposure to these types of toxins can cause future serious health problems.
- **Proper housekeeping practices** are necessary to avoid safety hazards created from lack of clean-up and proper sanitation.
- **Indoors:** When working within living spaces, attention should be given to a thorough clean-up of the work-site and surrounding areas. These high traffic areas involve significant contact with individuals. Proper sanitation is required to prevent exposure to toxins and/or contaminants uncovered and used during servicing.
- **Outdoors:** Good clean-up and wash-down is necessary to prevent contamination to the environment and eliminate the chance of contact with potential biological hazards by children, pets and other animals.



Conclusion: Always take the time and care to properly disinfect and clean the equipment and your body. Wash and disinfect hands and arms. Avoid touching your face. Remember to clean all tools, cords and equipment before reloading the truck. Residue from chemicals and biological substances will remain on your clothing, gloves, boots, protective gear, and equipment after the completion of a job. The cumulative effect of exposure to pathogens remaining on equipment and clothing may cause illness. After work, remove and wash all work clothes and immediately shower-up. Take care to avoid contact with face while removing contaminated clothing. Follow these guidelines for safe drain auguring operations.

Work Site Review

Work-Site Hazards and Safety Suggestions: _____

Material Safety Data Sheets Reviewed: _____ (Name of Chemical)

Personnel Safety Violations: _____

Employee Signatures:

(My signature attests and verifies my understanding of and agreement to comply with, all company safety policies and regulations, and that I have not suffered, experienced, or sustained any recent job-related injury or illness.)

These guidelines do not supercede local, state, or federal regulations and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.