

Safe Work Instruction - Clearing of Sewer Chokes

DO NOT use this plant* unless you have been inducted in its safe use and operation by an Authorised Experienced Operator

This SWI may not cover all possible hazards and risks and should be referred to as a control measure in the risk assessment process. Additional training may be required for high risk plant. Site and task may change required PPE.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT



Eye protection must be worn



Long and loose hair must be contained or covered.



Hand protection must be worn



Foot protection must be worn



High visibility clothing must be worn



Hearing protection must be worn

POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND RISKS

- Entanglement**
Entanglement in moving parts
- Manual Task Injury**
Manual task injury from repetitive movements
Manual task injury from incorrect manual handling techniques
- Exposure to High Pressure Fluid**
Injury from exposure to high pressure fluids
- Other**
Burn injury
Hearing damage from excessive noise
Injury due to plant malfunction or misuse
- Explosion**
Explosion of gases, vapours or liquids
- Cutting, Stabbing or Puncturing**
Injury from sharp or flying object
Injury from work pieces being ejected
Injury from contact with moving parts
- Slip, Trips, Falls**
Slip, trip, fall due to uneven or slippery work surfaces
- Struck by Moving Object**
Struck by moving object due to work pieces being ejected
Injury to worker due to being struck by moving traffic

PRE-OPERATIONAL SAFETY CHECKS

- ✓ Complete site specific risk assessment
- ✓ Complete visual plant check prior to operation
- ✓ Ensure you are familiar with plant operations and controls
- ✓ Ensure that guards are fitted, secured and functional in accordance with manufacturers guidelines
- ✓ Check for overhead electrical power above the work area
- ✓ Check manholes either side of discharge/complaint to ascertain location of blockage
- ✓ Ensure worker has relevant SDS available (Sewercide). Refer to SDS for correct usage of this product

OPERATING PROCEDURES

- ✓ Keep clear of moving plant parts
- ✓ Operate plant to the conditions of the work area
- ✓ During choke clearance work, prevent public access to sewerage choke clearing work area – where required by barrier boards
- ✓ Ensure to operate in well-lit areas or have adequate lighting if working at night
- ✓ If using Hard Rods, endeavour to clear the choke -
 - From the upstream manhole
 - By using the smallest cutter to free the choke and relieve the pressure

- By pushing rods (hard and flexible) up to the choke and with medium force, pushing back and forward to try and dislodge
- ✓ If unable to clear the choke attach motor to rods and follow correct procedure for motorised sewer choke clearing (**Motorised Sewerage Choke Clearing Machines**)
Note: Use safety bar supplied for removal of stationary rods
- ✓ If using Water Jetter, endeavour to clear the choke
 - From the downstream manhole
 - By using the smallest nozzle and allowing the machine to work at its own pace keeping the nozzle slightly away from the obstruction to minimise nozzle blockage
- ✓ For a boundary riser blockage place foot over riser cap and remove screws slowly to relieve pressure/after pressure has gone
- ✓ If riser is full, use a plunger to try to force the choke out of the riser watching out for back pressure in the line. If the pressure builds up simply tilt the plunger slightly back to break the seal and release the pressure
- ✓ Always ensure that toilet seats are down and sink plugs are in place prior to plunging as back splashing may also occur in these areas. If choke is still there use flexi rods or water jetter
- ✓ When using flexi rods use the small cutting head first, pushing rods in until they reach the choke, then attach handle and turn clock wise into choke

- ✓ Ensure to be aware of tension build up in rods which can spin back and catch operator off guard
- ✓ When cutting through the choke move flexi rods back and forward to assist in breaking up the obstruction
- ✓ In the case of an unforeseen rod ejection from the manhole, stop the rod rotation by throwing the drive clutch out, or stopping the machine engine (if this can be done safely)
- ✓ If using water jetter select the smallest nozzle and run machine at an idle until the obstruction is reached then hold nozzle just off choke, slowly increasing machine to operating pressure
- ✓ If any doubt about a safety aspect of a sewerage choke clearance exists **contact the co-ordinator immediately**
- ✓ In the event of an incident advise the relevant Coordinator of –
 - Person injured
 - Nature of injury
 - Location of work area
 - Also worker is to support any emergency service personnel e.g. Ambulance to assist in the evacuation of injured worker

ENDING OPERATIONS

- ✓ Ensure plant is in good working order and stored in the appropriate location
- ✓ Ensure nothing is left in the work area that could present a safety hazard to others

DO NOT

- ✗ Do not use if plant is faulty. Attach a DO NOT OPERATE tag and report fault to your supervisor
- ✗ Do not leave plant running unattended
- ✗ Do not use large auger to clear a choke from the downstream side
- ✗ Do not place gloved hands in direct contact with rotating rods
- ✗ Do not ram the plunger down quickly as back splashing may occur
- ✗ Do not use mobile phone while operating plant

*Plant in this SWI refers to any machinery, equipment, appliance, container, implement and tool.