



# Project Newsletter

Public Works Agency



## Local Sewer Rehabilitation

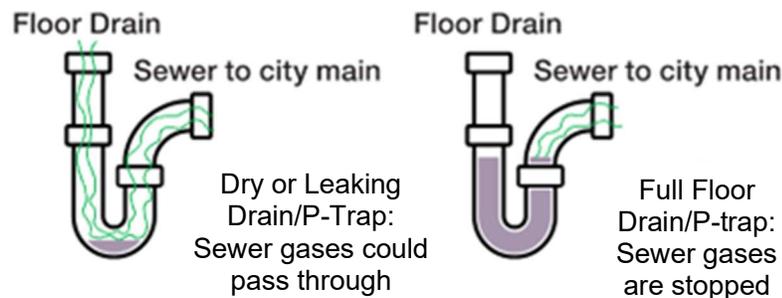
### Information on Styrene

#### Background

The City of Evanston is rehabilitating a portion of the City's public combined sewer lines using the Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) process. This is a part of an annual project to help maintain the City's sewer system. CIPP lining is used to replace deterioration pipes without needing to dig up the whole road, reducing construction time, costs, and disruption to the local community. This process involves installing a felt tube saturated in resin, then using either hot water or steam to cure or harden the tube to create a new pipe within the old pipe. The work is typically completed within a single day.

#### What is that odor?

The resins used in the lining process have been used in the fiberglass industry for many years. These resins contain a chemical called styrene that hardens when heated. Although styrene has an unpleasant odor, it is not dangerous at the levels at which people can detect it. If you smell the styrene while the contractor's personnel are working in your area, do not be alarmed. **An easy way to prevent the styrene odor from occurring in your building is to pour a gallon of water into each drain (particularly basement floor drains) as shown below. This keeps the drain "trap" full and prevents sewer gases from coming into your building.** Because the water in the drain traps evaporates over time, this practice should be done regularly. Styrene can also enter your home through open windows and doors, particularly on days with high winds.



#### Is styrene harmful to me or my family?

Styrene has a very intense smell and is detectable by the human nose at very low concentrations. The presence of styrene odor does not necessarily indicate a dangerous level. However, short-term exposure may cause discomfort. The symptoms are almost always reversible upon leaving the impacted area and allowing time for the styrene to dissipate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact James Knuth, Civil Engineer II at (847) 448-8280 or [jknuh@cityofevanston.org](mailto:jknuh@cityofevanston.org). Additional information can be found at the following link:

<https://live-nassco.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Whats-That-Odor-Oct-2020.pdf>



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