

## What to do if your basement is flooded with sewer water.

If a sewage back-up should occur at your home and you have sewage in your basement, please contact the appropriate sewer district that covers the municipality where you live. For a list of Erie County sewer districts, go to [http://www.erie.gov/dsm/district\\_info.asp](http://www.erie.gov/dsm/district_info.asp). In the City of Buffalo please contact the Buffalo Sewer Authority at 716-883-1820. In the City of Tonawanda, Town of Tonawanda, and Village of Kenmore please contact 716-693-4900. In the Town of Grand Island, please contact 716-773-9660. In the Town of Amherst and Village of Williamsville, please contact 716-631-7154.

### *Here are some tips for reducing health risks for those who are handling sewage*

- Keep children and pets away from the area.
- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after handling human waste or sewage.
- Avoid touching face, mouth, eyes, nose, or open sores and cuts while handling human waste or sewage.
- Keep open sores, cuts, and wounds covered with clean, dry bandages.
- Use **waterproof gloves** to prevent cuts and contact with human waste or sewage.
- Before eating, remove soiled work clothes and eat in designated areas away from human waste and sewage-handling activities.
- Do **not** smoke or chew tobacco or gum while handling human waste or sewage.
- Gently flush eyes with clean water if human waste or sewage contacts eyes.
- **Wear rubber boots** at the worksite and during transport of human waste or sewage.
- Remove rubber boots and work clothes before leaving worksite.
- Clean contaminated work clothing daily with 0.05% chlorine solution (1 part household bleach to 100 parts water).

### *Remediation of the Basement*

- If you must come in contact with the area, do so only if the electricity is turned off and protective clothing such as rubber boots and gloves are worn in the area. Be on the look out for any dangers such as flooded electrical circuits, broken gas lines, and flooded furnaces or appliances while in the affected area.
- Remove visible contamination with detergent and water.
- Disinfect by wiping surface with a bleach solution. Use a half cup of household bleach in a gallon of water. Non-bleach sanitizers can also be used.
- **Hard surfaces:** drain and dry the area, then clean with a detergent/disinfectant.
- **Carpeting, loose tiles, buckled flooring:** wet down carpeting with a low-level disinfectant prior to removal, remove and allow the support surface to dry; replace the items;
- **Wallboard and other porous structural materials:** remove and replace if they cannot be cleaned and dried within 72 hours.
- **Hard surface furniture (i.e., metal, plastic):** clean and allow to dry.
- **Wood furniture:** let dry, sand the wood surface, and reapply varnish.
- **Cloth furniture:** replace.
- **Electrical equipment:** replace if the item cannot be easily dismantled, cleaned, and reassembled.
- **Warning:** Bleach may damage some material.

### *The following personal protective equipment (PPE) is recommended for those who are handling sewage*

- **Goggles:** to protect eyes from splashes of human waste or sewage.
- **Protective face mask or splash-proof face shield:** to protect nose and mouth from splashes of human waste or sewage.
- **Liquid-repellent coveralls:** to keep human waste or sewage off clothing.
- **Waterproof gloves:** to prevent exposure to human waste or sewage.
- **Rubber boots:** to prevent exposure to human waste or sewage.