

The Theme for July 2019 is: Health, Hygiene and Contamination

Your Health and Safety

Our Environment

Quality Requirements

Working around sewage is an inevitable aspect of our industry, whilst land contamination may be uncovered during operations, especially on sites with an industrial history. With this in mind it is important that we minimise the risk to our health by ensuring we can identify the hazards and mitigate them by managing personal hygiene and welfare closely. We also need to know how to handle and report any potential contamination.

SITE HYGIENE / HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

Breathing dust or vapor containing bird dropping can cause psittacosis and salmonella. Always assess the risk to health whilst working and report any contaminated areas.

Report anything that has the potential to contaminate or be detrimental to health or water quality.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Dirty tools and equipment should be cleaned thoroughly with disinfectant.

Separate PPE must be used if working on both clean and dirty water sites.

Wash hands to avoid cross-contaminating before eating, drinking, smoking, or any other activity that puts hands near the mouth.

Ensure dirty PPE does not contaminate office or designated eating areas.

IDENTIFYING LAND CONTAMINATION

When undertaking work, look out for the following signs of land contamination:

Unusual odours

Made ground (evidence of previous soil working)

Asphalt with a very strong smell / darker in colour may signal the presence of coal tar.

Fibrous texture to soil (indicator of asbestos)

Presence of foreign objects

Discoloured soil

DISCOVERY OF LAND CONTAMINATION

Where there is suspected ground contamination:

Contact your SHEQ Advisor and where required, the emergency clean up contractor.

If asbestos, do not disturb or attempt to move it, re-cover if safe to do so.

STOP WORKS!
Inform Site Management.

Where possible quarantine the area.

- If you become ill, inform your Supervisor / First Aider and visit your local pharmacist, doctor or hospital where necessary.
- <https://www.nhs.uk/> is a useful tool to assist with the query of minor symptoms and seek further advice.