Sewer Backup Policy

City’s Responsibility:
The City is responsible for maintaining the public sewer main and sewer lateral segments which are located on City property in City right of ways or easements.

Property Owner Responsibility:
Property owners are responsible for maintaining the building sewer that expands from the property or easement line to the building. Maintenance includes clearing blockages.

Sewer Emergencies may include:
- Backed up sewer lines
- Line breaks
- Sewage odors
- Overflowing manholes.

To report sewer emergencies, contact the City of McMinnville Wastewater Services Division at (503) 434-7313. For emergencies that occur after hours, please call (503) 434-7316.

City of McMinnville employees will assist property owners in locating the problem, advise the property owner on action needed and correct the problem if it is the City’s responsibility.

If the sewer problem originates in the building or in the building sewer, the property owner is responsible.

Safety Tips:
Sewer backups can cause health and safety concerns and significant property loss. Here are some safety tips for your property and contents that have water damage from sewer backup.

Do:
- Eliminate water source.
- Turn off circuit breakers supplying electricity to the damaged area to eliminate the risk of electrical shock.

Don’t:
- Use electrical equipment while standing in water.
- Use your home wet/dry vacuum since electrical shock may result as well as a spread of bio-contaminants.
- Consume any food that has been left out in contaminated environment.
- Turn on fans to dry things out.

Consider Not Staying in Building if you:
- Have respiratory problems, including allergies and asthma.
- Are under the age of 2 or over the age of 60.
- Have a weakened immune system because of illness, medication, or any other reason.

Property owners should be aware that many property insurance policies exclude damage resulting from sewer backups. It is suggested that property owners check their policies.

In the event of a sewer backup that may be caused by failure in the City’s sanitary system, the property owner will be given an Accident Reporting Form that should be completed immediately.

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