



Bovis

Lend Lease

Global Alliance

Environment, Health & Safety Alert

Near miss report – Syringe in toilet sink

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This photo shows the contents of a sink trap from an Inner City BP site after being emptied into a bucket. It includes a discarded syringe which had probably been pushed down the plug hole by a drug user.

NAP construction visited the site to fix the blockage. Fortunately their Method Statement stresses the risk of contaminated sharps within sinks, toilets, drains etc.

Their staff ALWAYS take extreme care when disconnecting pipes and waste traps. They never put hands into pipes to clear blockages.

THIS SHOWS WHY!

- DO YOU DO SIMILAR WORK TO THIS?
- COULD YOU BE EXPOSED TO THESE HAZARDS?
- DOES YOUR METHOD STATEMENT MAKE CLEAR WHAT TO DO?
e.g. PPE / rodding tools / correct disposal
- ARE ADEQUATE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IN PLACE? – think worst case scenario
- DO YOU ALWAYS REPORT SITUATIONS LIKE THIS?
Alert the BP Site Manager immediately.

The risk of damaging health effects from coming into contact with a contaminated sharp cannot be over emphasised.

If this is a significant risk for you and your company make sure people know what to do to protect themselves.