

Policies and Procedures			
Municipality	Town of Deep River	Issued	April 17, 2013
Section/By-law	Bv-law 16-2013	Effective:	April 17, 2013
Subject:	SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM BLOCKAGE POLICY	Page:	Page 1 of 2
Approved by:	Municipal Council	Revised:	

Policy Statement

The Town operates and maintains a sanitary sewage collection and disposal system for the benefit of property owners and residents whose premises are connected to it. The operation and maintenance are carried out, whether by the Town or others, in compliance with the current standards for such systems.

This includes all reasonable efforts to:

1. Ensure that the system operates without interruption or incident; and,
2. Mitigate to the greatest extent possible the impacts of any system failure, of which the most common type is physical obstruction of a pipe in the collection system.

Municipal and Private Components

Ownership

The sanitary sewage collection system consists of facilities owned by private property owners and facilities owned by the Town. For ownership purposes, in general, the dividing line between the two components is the property line dividing the private property from the Street or other public land, right-of-way or easement on which the municipal sewer mains are installed.

Maintenance and Responsibility

The owner of any premises connected to the sanitary sewer system is responsible for maintenance and repair of the portion of the lateral pipe from the premises to the property line at the street, right of way or easement on which the municipal sewer mains are installed.

The municipality is responsible for maintenance and repair of all mains and other components of the system such as manholes, lift stations, force mains, etc, and for the portion of any lateral installed under a street, right-of-way or easement.

Notwithstanding the preceding, if, in the opinion of the Town Public Works Director, a repair to the private portion of a lateral has been necessitated as a result of work on a main carried out by the Town, the Town will assume responsibility for such repair.

Work Done by the Town

The Town will respond as promptly as possible to all reports of sewer obstructions. The Town will determine of the location of the blockage in a lateral, and the property owner or occupant must allow the Town the access necessary to make such a determination.

Where obstructions occur within the area of the Town's maintenance responsibility, the cost of clearing the lines will be borne by the Town.

Where obstructions occur within the private portion of the lateral, the property owner is responsible for the cost of clearing the lines. When the determination of the location of the blockage is made, the property owner or occupant will be advised of the responsibility and cost of clearing.

At the request of a property owner or occupant, the Town Public Works Director or other person designated by the Town Public Works Director may authorize work to be done on private components of the system to clear the blockage. The cost of such work shall be borne by the person requesting the work, and the provisions of the Town's policy on Accounts Receivable apply.

Unless to do so would impair the ability to mitigate damages, the Town Public Works Director or designate (operations foreman) shall provide every person who requests work by the Town on private components of the sewer system with an estimate of the cost of such work on flat rate, and shall obtain the written authorization of the person to precede.

Estimates provided in accordance with the foregoing are not binding on the Town.

Work Done by Owner (Resident)

Residents may opt for a local service provider to clear their blocked sewer line. In this event the owner (resident) will exempt the Town of Deep River from any cost incurred to clear the line.

Service Cost

Service fee will be applied at an hourly rate per person equivalent to an Equipment Operator 1 and the current equipment fee per hour a11d applic,;able call out rate plus equipment fee for weekday hours from 4 pm. until 8 a.m. and/or the applicable call out rate for Saturday, Sunday and statutory holidays plus equipment fee.

Liability for Damages

The Town operates and maintains the sanitary sewage system in accordance with current standards, and makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that the system operates without interruption or incident. The Town therefore will not accept liability for damages to private property arising from blockages in the sanitary sewer system.