

Sewer Pipe Repair Sites— Anticipating the Hazards

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Water Infrastructure Needs

USEPA: \$200 billion for drinking water pipe repairs

USEPA: \$600 billion for sanitary sewer pipes

FHWA: Millions of feet of culverts require repair

Private water and sewer pipes require repair. In-building plumbing require repairs.

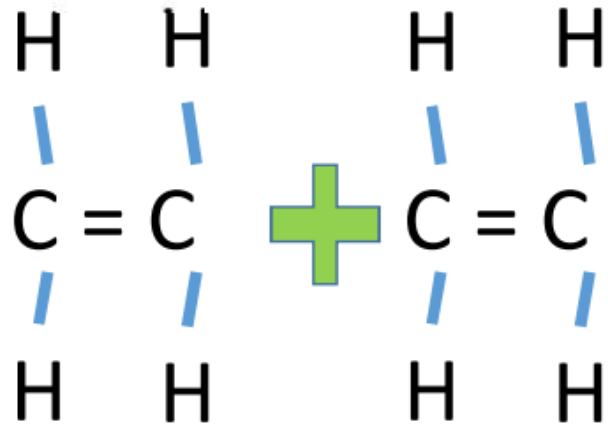
Mechanical pipe failures can be catastrophic
(traffic disruption, public safety, \$\$\$)



Plastics are ...Polymers = *Many...Unit...compound*

Long-chain molecules of very high molecular weight (n = tens of thousands)

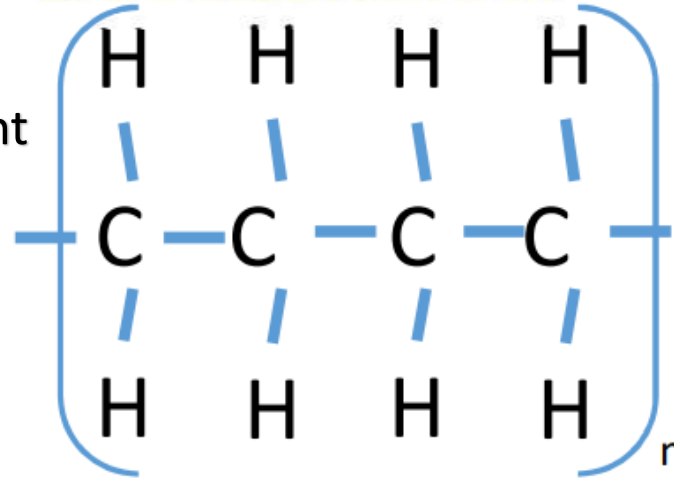
MER UNITS



Initiator(s)
+heat or UV light



POLYMERIZATION



POLYMER CHAINS ... THINK SPAGHETTI !

Linear



Branched



Place of Manufacture

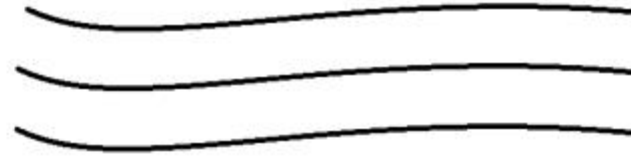
Before onsite
HDPE, PVC, cPVC, PEX, etc.

Inside the water system
Coatings and CIPP liners

How to Make Plastics (*Think Spaghetti*)



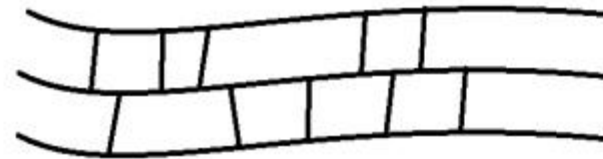
Straighten the spaghetti strands



Not crosslinked

*HDPE,
PVC, etc.*

Bond the spaghetti strands



Crosslinked

*CIPP,
gaskets,
coatings,
PEX*

Flexible: HDPE vs. LDPE (LDPE has more free volume/space between chains)

Flexible: HDPE vs. PEX (HDPE has greater chain mobility)

What is cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP)?

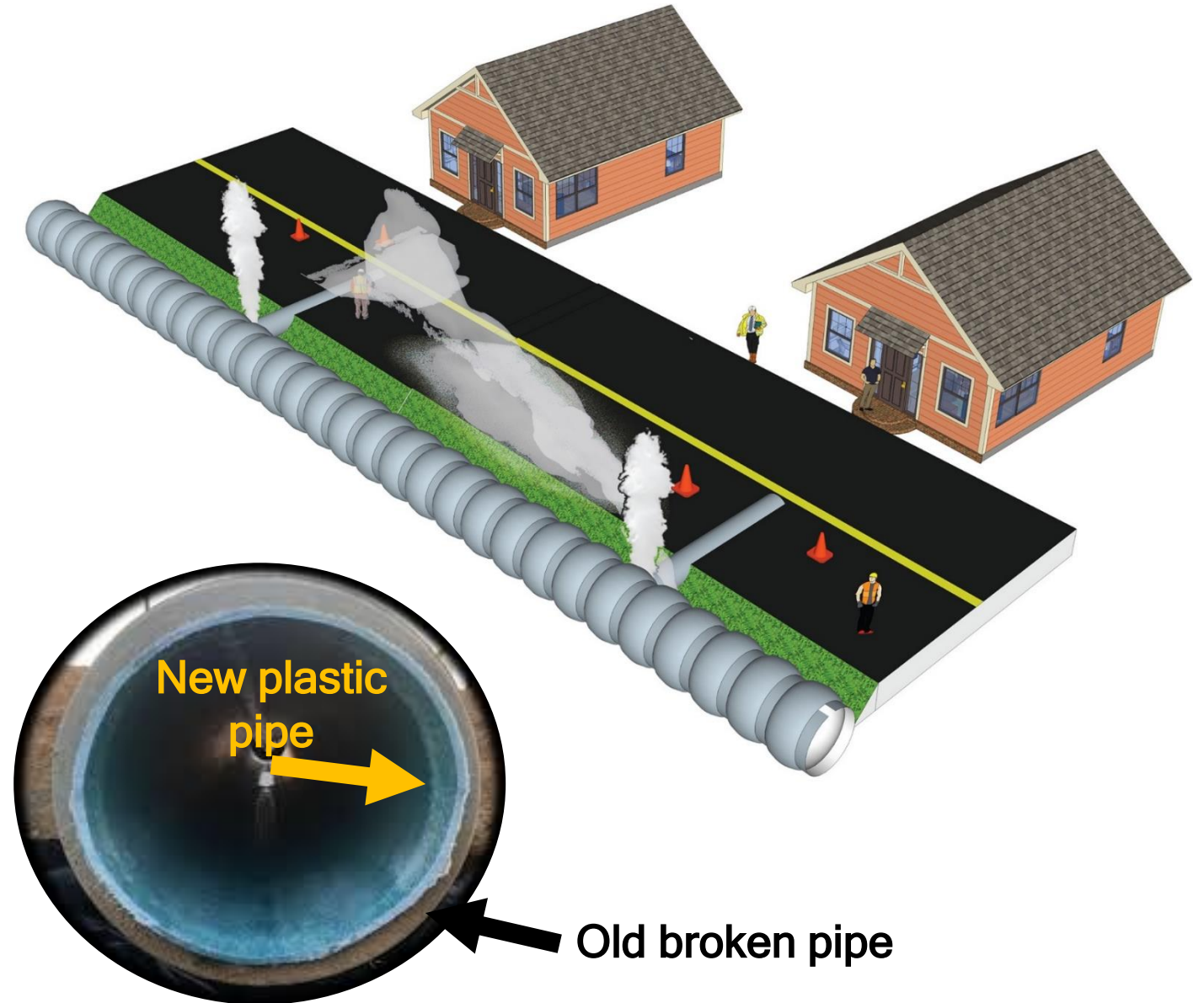
**“Trenchless” pipe repair method
preferred by communities nationwide**

1975: Arrived in the USA.

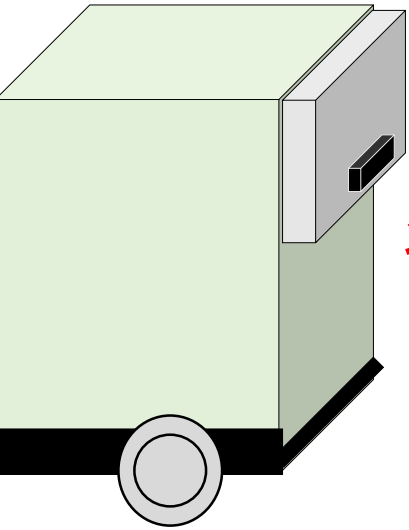
**Sanitary sewer, storm sewer, drinking
water pipes (4-100” diam.)**

**Up to 60-80% less expensive than other
pipe repair options.**

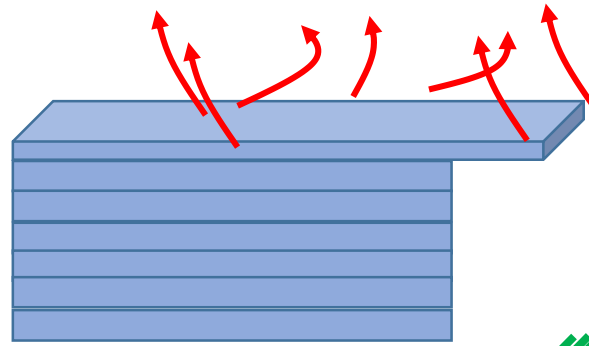
**Pipes can be typically repaired in 1-3
hours instead of days or weeks**



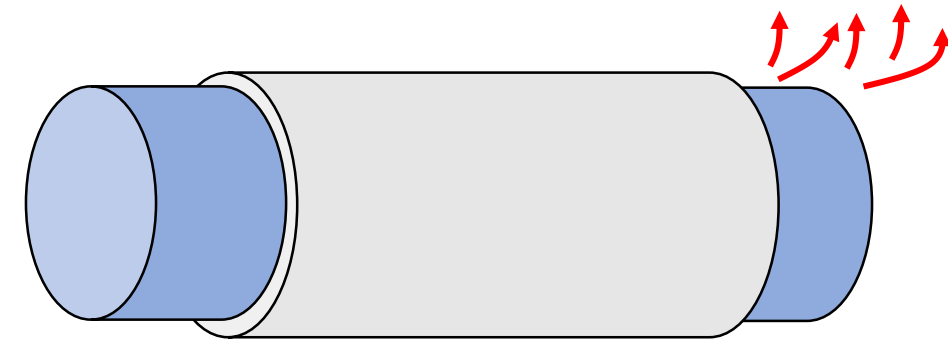
Uncured **RESIN** tube
delivered on a truck



Uncured **RESIN** tube inserted
into damaged pipe (raw chemicals)



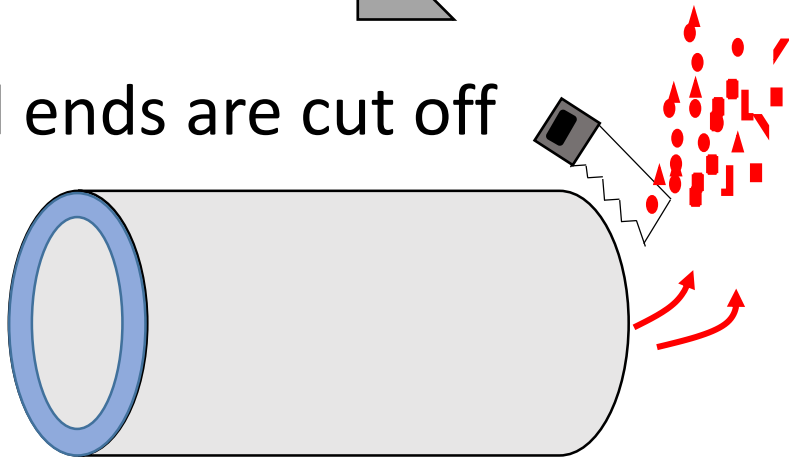
Uncured **RESIN** tube inflated
with air inside host pipe



“Curing (Hardening) Method”

Hot Water or Steam or UV Light
(industry encourages waste discharge to air)

Hard ends are cut off



Pipe allowed into service



**Resin
Types**

Polyester
(est. most popular)

Vinyl ester
(est. > cost of
polyester)

Epoxy
(est. >> cost of
polyester)

People also say “Styrene resin” vs. “Non-styrene based” resin

Resin + Solvents + Fillers + Catalysts + Initiators are added to create an uncured resin tube

**Method to
insert
uncured
resin tubes**

Air inversion

Water inversion

Pull in place

Sometimes resin may leave the tube and flow into cracks and sewer laterals. May not cure.
Tubes sometimes have a plastic coating. Plastic “preliners” sometimes used.

**Method to
polymerize
resin**

**Thermal –
Steam injection**
(most popular)

**Thermal –
Hot water
recirculation**

**UV –
Light exposure**
(est. most growth)

**Cooldown
method**

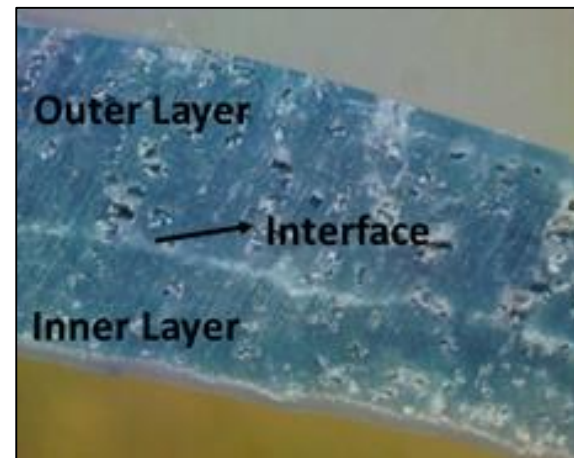
Forced hot air

Forced ambient air

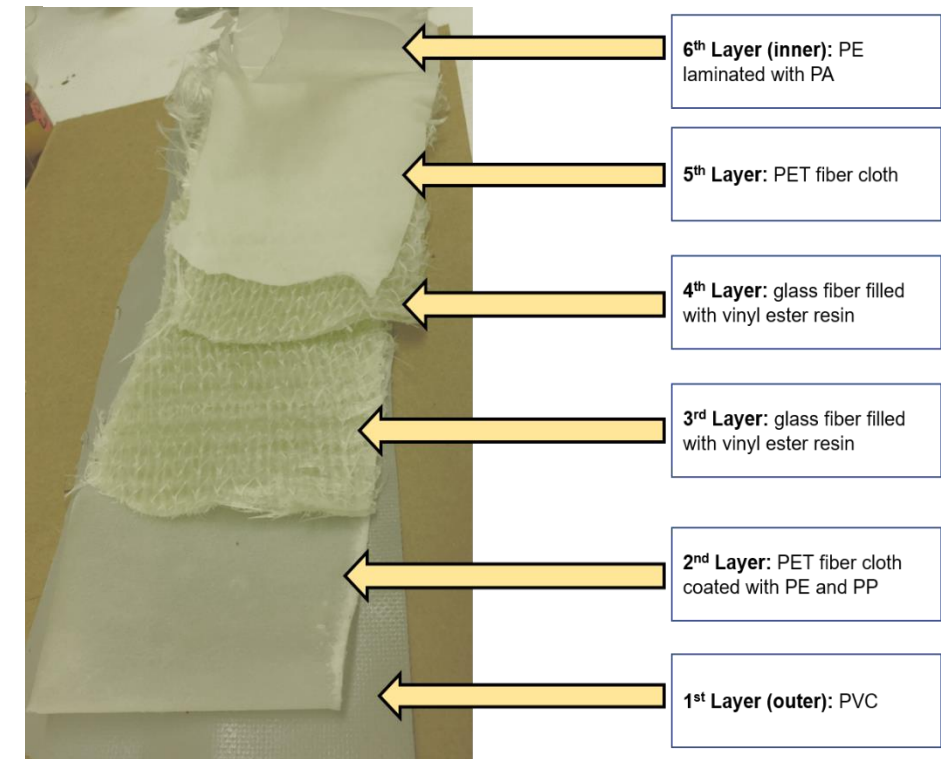
Recirculated water



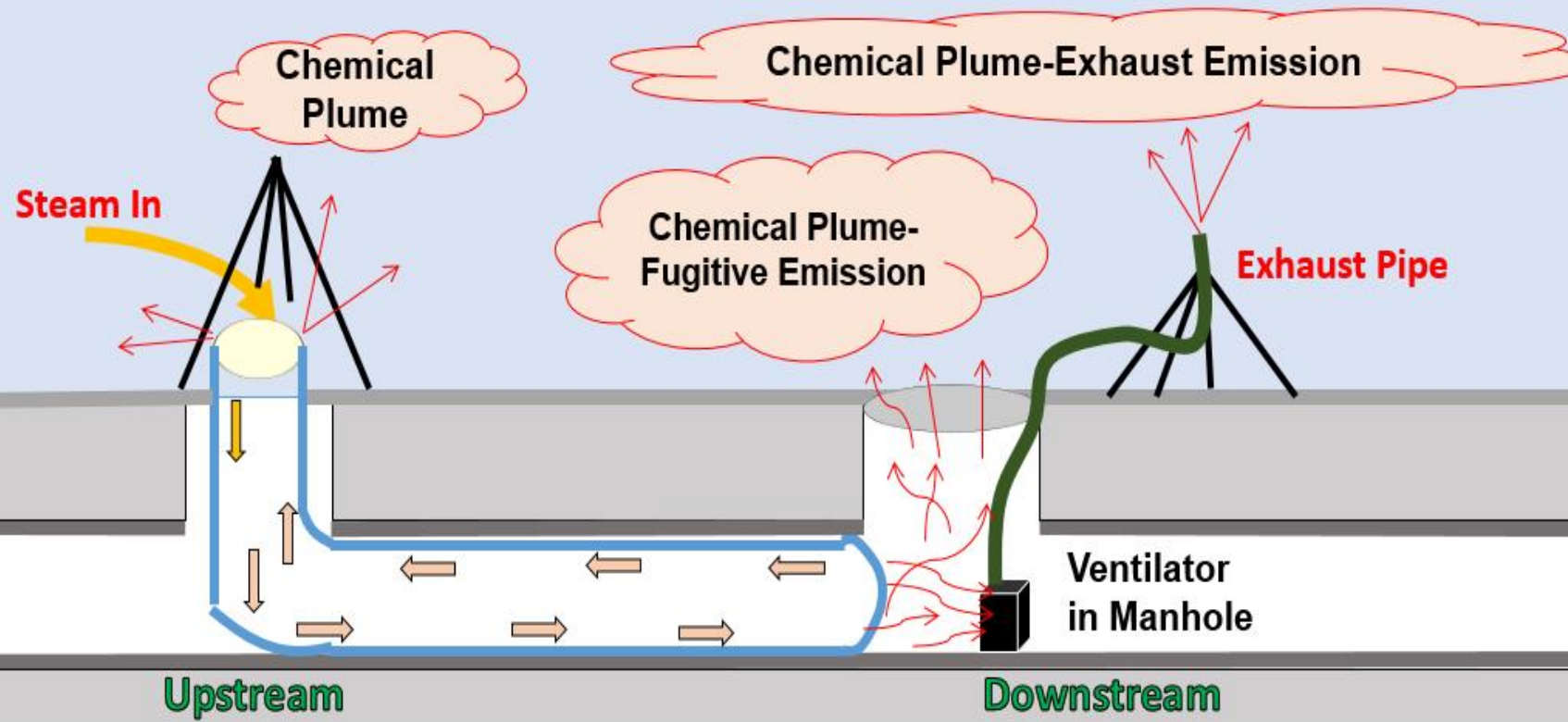
*Uncured PET
felt resin tube
before steam
curing*



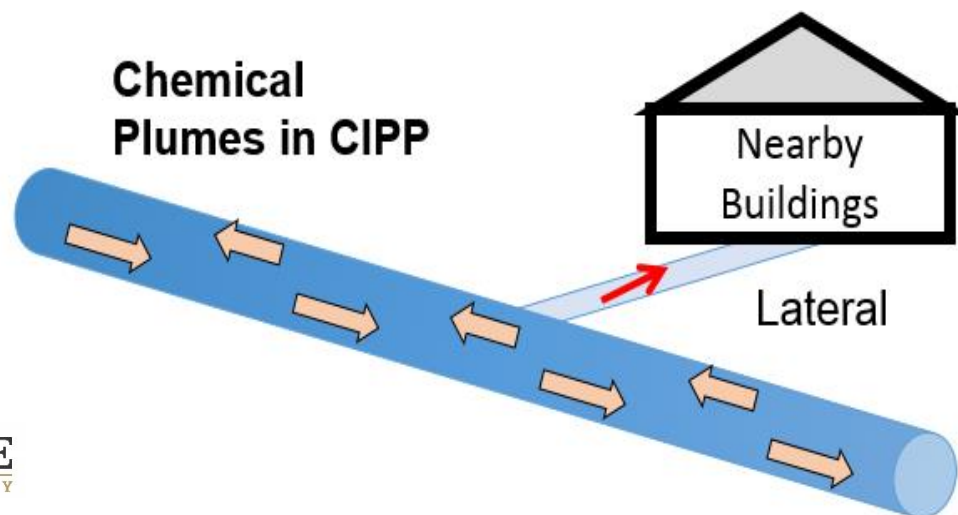
*Cross-section of new UV cured
CIPP with fiberglass layers*



*Cross-section of new thermally
cured CIPP with PET felt layers*



Chemical Plumes Generated by CIPP can Escape the Pipe Being Repaired



**Chemical plumes can
be discharged into
nearby areas**

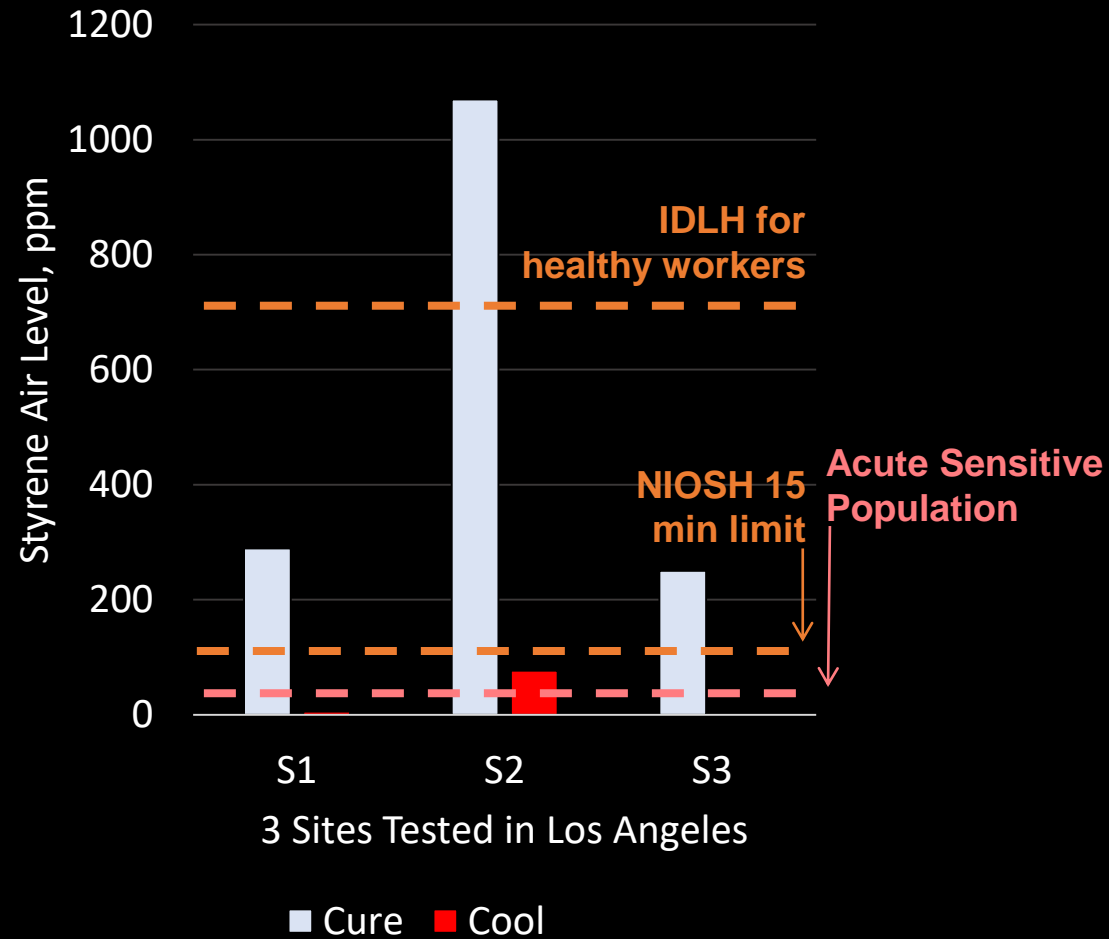
Reinstate lateral connections by robot cutting



Sewer laterals that connect to the pipe being repaired are not sealed off from the property. The uncured resin tube can bulge into the sewer lateral.

Uncured resin slugs in laterals that off gas: CIPP companies add 3-15% excess resin by volume per ASTM F1743 “to allow for the change in resin volume due to polymerization, the change in resin volume due to thermal expansion or contraction, and resin migration through the perforations of the fabric tube and out onto the host pipe.”

2015 – A University of New Orleans PhD student uncovered imminent safety risks: Styrene exiting a Los Angeles sewer exceeded the IDLH



Elena Adjari, Ph.D. (2016)



Chemical waste reaches
bystanders nearby
Image: Proctor (2022)



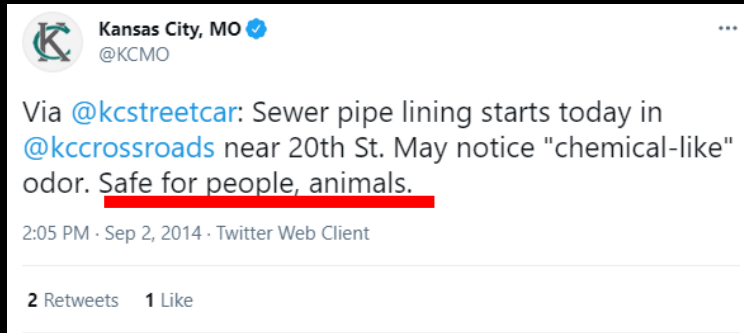
In 2005, An Office Building was Contaminated through the Foundation, Lingered for Months

Date	Total VOC, ppm	Styrene, ppm
12/10	Evacuation	Evacuation
12/13	Evacuation	Evacuation
12/13-22	nd – 1.45	Not tested
12/22	nd – 199.0	Not tested
1/12	0.5 – 30.0 ⁺	Not tested
1/13	nd – 1.77	nd – 0.30
1/18	nd – 1.60	Not tested
1/21	nd – 0.86	nd – 0.22
2/4	nd – 0.21	nd – 0.15
2/7	nd – 0.57	nd – 0.04
3/28	nd – 0.22	nd – 0.01

ATSDR Conclusion: “...airborne styrene levels above guidelines for long-term exposure as well as other VOCs...past conditions at the site are classified as a public health hazard”



Milwaukee, WI Health Department: odor in buildings associated with some re-lining projects in the past, but typically would last only a couple of days.



Circa 2016 Industry Safety Claims

“Styrene vapor of at most few ppm”

“is not a human health risk”

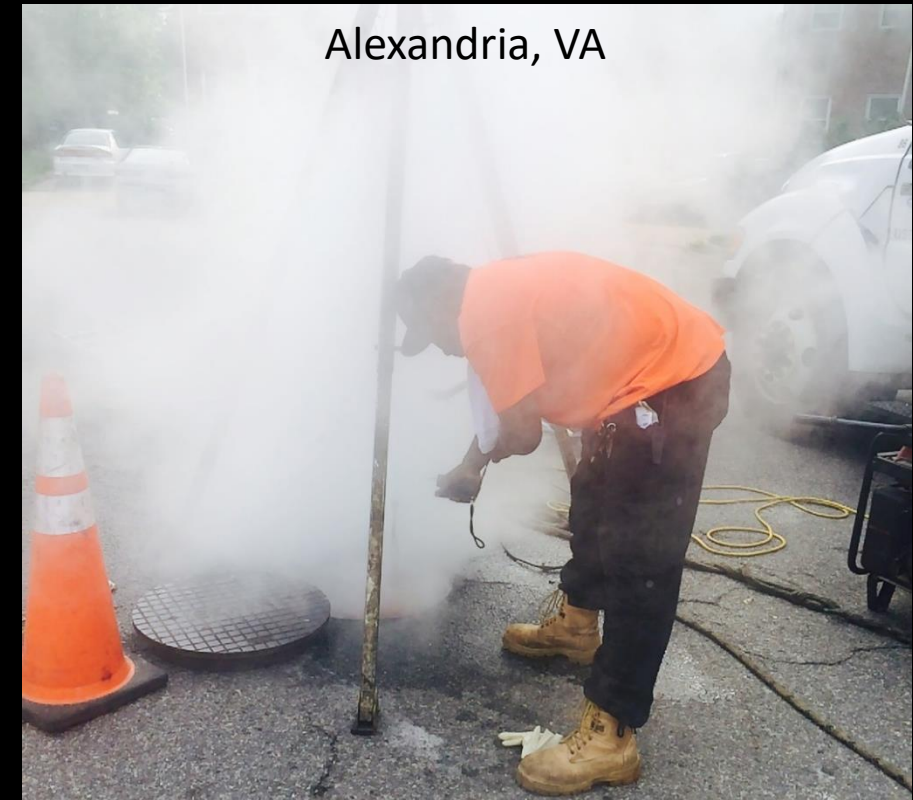
“is safe for people and animals”

“it is harmless steam”

“no hazardous conditions posed”

“don’t be alarmed”

“some people are offended by this odor and are fearful of it; even though the concentrations they smell present no harm”



Common in the US

No waste capture

No formal setback distances

No formal respiratory protection

No formal air monitoring



2001, Canada: 3.2 ppm styrene maximum

2004, Canada: PID 110 ppm

2004, Germany: Draeger tube 20 ppm
styrene

2004, Canada: PID 120 ppm styrene

2005, Wisconsin: PID 199 ppm

2006, The Netherlands: PID 87 ppm
styrene

2007, Virginia: 9.9 ppm styrene

2016, California: 200-1,070 ppm styrene
discovered

**Q: Does emission pose a healthy
and safety risk to workers or
bystanders (i.e., children)?**

Odor Threshold Concentration =
0.016 ppm

General Public:
CA OEHHA (2017) Acute Ref.
Exposure Level = 4.9 ppm

ATSDR (2005) Acute Level
= 2.0 ppm



NSF RAPID Study: The plastic manufacturing waste was a multiphase chemical mixture, NOT Steam (vapors, particulates, droplets, partially cured resin, etc.)

Our 2017 Study: Plastic manufacturing waste emissions were quite complex ... not what people were being told

Worksite Chemical Air Emissions and Worker Exposure during Sanitary Sewer and Stormwater Pipe Rehabilitation Using Cured-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP)

Download FREE here:

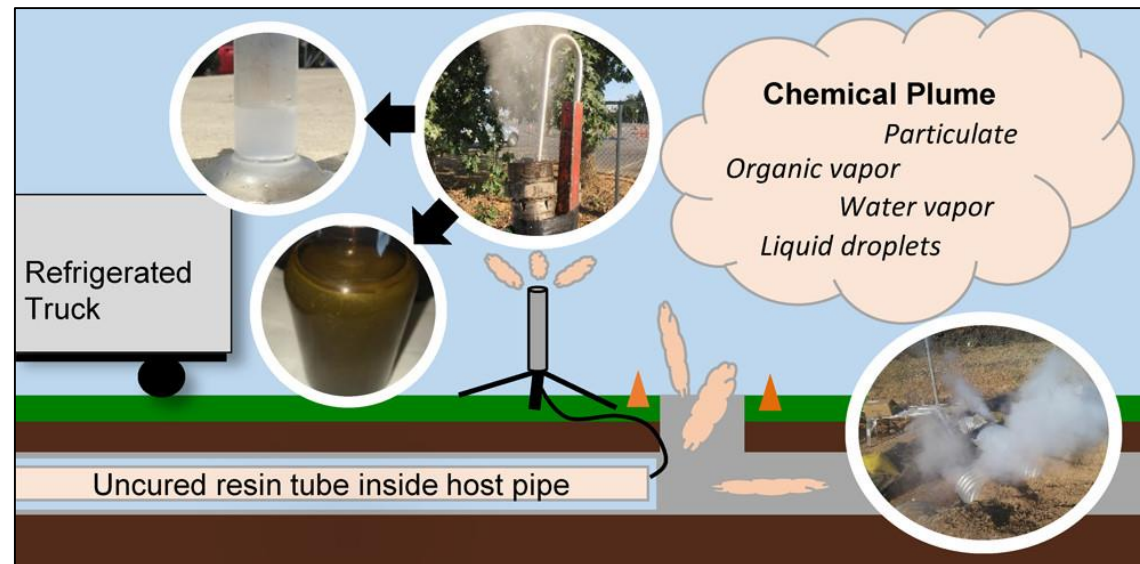
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.7b00237>

Exhaust is a multi-phase mixture, *not* steam

1,800 to 4,300 ppm styrene in condensed material + other carcinogens and EDCs

Acute toxicity differed by worksite to mouse lung cells

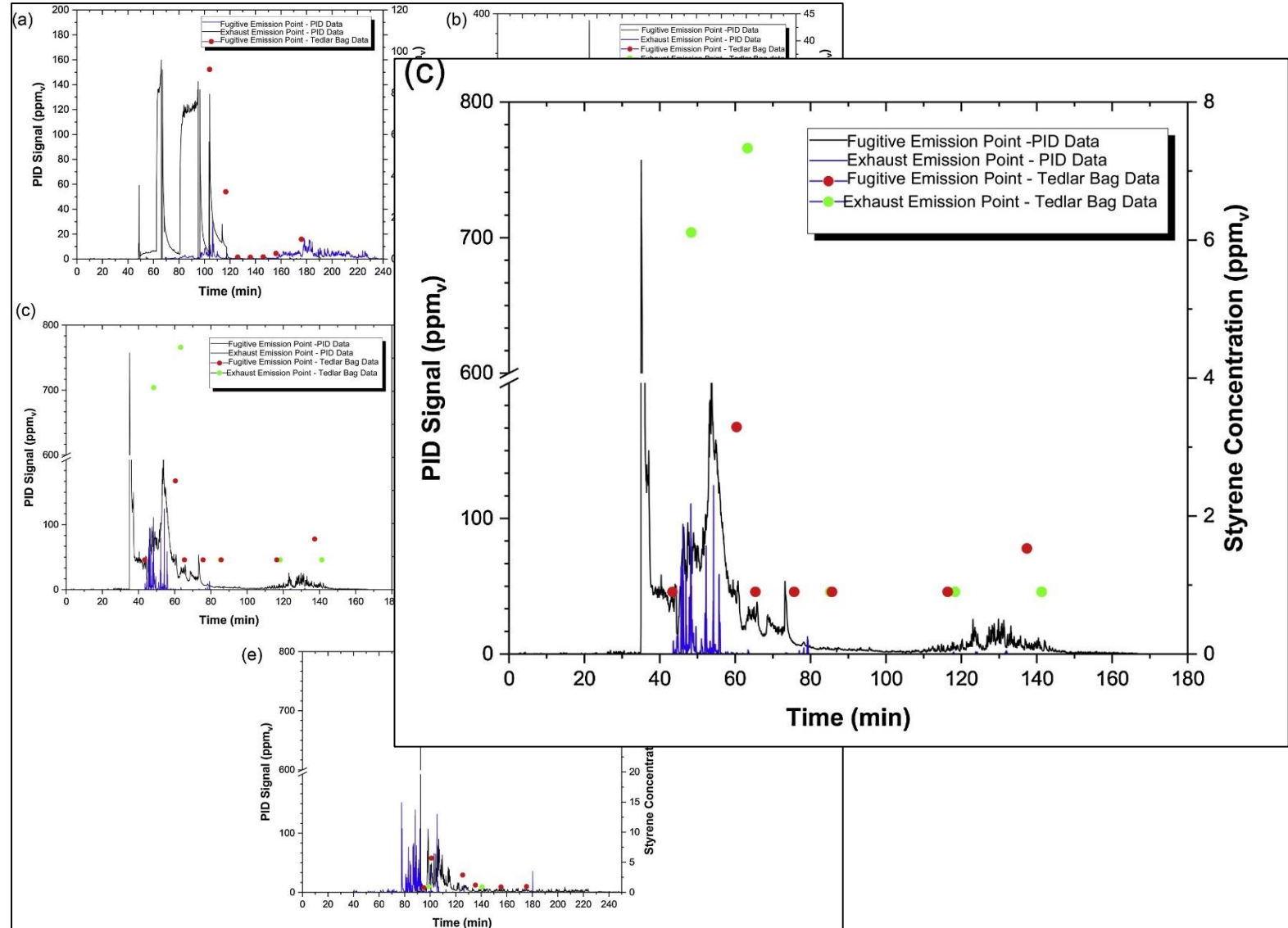
Some workers were handling resin with barehands and had no respiratory protection



Response...

- CIPP industry said results are unfounded, no safety risk. Urged municipalities not to jump to conclusions. Sent letters threatening lawsuits.
- CIPP industry funded their own study.
- NIOSH began helping workers (confirmed the issue).
- Workers reached out to us for help and advice

Calibrated PIDs at CIPP worksites **do not** predict health risk.
PID under and overestimated styrene levels by 10x to 1000x



News | updated: 10/26/2017 11:28 AM

Worker killed in Streamwood sewer line

Daily Herald



Illuminated by emergency lights and rescue lights, a man reacts after rescue crews pulled the body of a worker from a sewer line on South Park Boulevard in Streamwood Wednesday night.

John Starks | Staff Photographer

A few months later a 22 year old healthy CIPP worker was killed

Worker entered the new CIPP (like others had elsewhere)

Victim exposed to 225-275 ppm_v styrene for 4 hours according to post-mortem blood analysis [OSHA]

\$3M wrongful death settlement.
Village of Streamwood, Consulting engineer, CIPP company, CIPP safety company, CIPP resin company

Reporters: Jake Griffin, Eric Petersen
Photo: John Starks, Daily Herald

As we started looking more closely at exposures....

The material safety data sheets...
did not list all the chemicals that

- ...were present in the resin brought onsite,
- ...were created during CIPP manufacture,
- ...were released into air during manufacture,
- ...remained in the new CIPP after manufacture, or
- ...were released after CIPP manufacture.

Product/ingredient name	Identifiers	%	Classification	
styrene	REACH #: 01-2119457861-32 EC: 202-851-5 CAS: 100-42-5 Index: 601-026-00-0	35-50	<div>Onsite UV CIPP Resin MSDS:</div> <div>3 Chemicals reported</div>	
phenyl bis(2,4,6-trimethylbenzoyl)-phosphine oxide	EC: 423-340-5 CAS: 162881-26-7 Index: 015-189-00-5	0.1-25		
2,2-dimethoxy-1,2-diphenylethan-1-one	EC: 246-386-6 CAS: 24650-42-8	<0.25		
			R43 R53	STOT RE 1, H372i Asp. Tox. 1, H304 Skin Sens. 1, H317 Aquatic Chronic 4, H413
			N; R50/53	Aquatic Acute 1, H400 Aquatic Chronic 1, H410
			See Section 16 for the full text of the R-phrases declared above.	See Section 16 for the full text of the H statements declared above.

Chemicals
we found in
the resin

Compound	Compound loading (mg/kg)						
	Whole	1 st (PVC)	2 nd	3 rd	4th	5 th	6th
BADGE ^O	1110 ± 40	—	1,730 ± 180	1,010 ± 71	1,010 ± 60	2,610 ± 30	—
Benzaldehyde	130 ± 11	—	295 ± 28	195 ± 11	89 ± 5.7	253 ± 12	—
BHT	86 ± 4.0	—	162 ± 4.0	70 ± 2.0	92 ± 2.6	237 ± 6	44 ± 2.3
DBP ^{EDC, HAP}	388 ± 60	7,700 ± 380	62 ± 16.7	30 ± 3.5	—	18 ± 1.6	41 ± 3.5
Decane	60 ± 4.7	—	109 ± 6	62 ± 1.5	68 ± 5.0	74 ± 4.1	34 ± 2.5
1-Dodecanol	156 ± 15	743 ± 96	—	—	—	—	—
Ethylbenzene ^{HAP}	5.0 ± 0.5	—	8.2 ± 1.0	8.0 ± 1.0	7.0 ± 1.2	8.2 ± 1.6	3.3 ± 4.6
Irgacure [®] 184 ^{PI}	2,270 ± 80	—	4,330 ± 150	2,290 ± 30	2,160 ± 120	6,090 ± 96	936 ± 72
Isopropylbenzene ^{CAR, HAP}	21 ± 1.4	—	31 ± 1.8	24 ± 0.7	26 ± 1.7	33 ± 0.7	—
Maleic anhydride ^{HAP, M}	280 ± 2	—	550 ± 40	273 ± 40	314 ± 13	811 ± 42	94 ± 2.6
Phthalic anhydride ^{HAP, M}	124 ± 12	—	274 ± 36	175 ± 21	176 ± 17	402 ± 0.3	—
N-Propylbenzene	40 ± 1.8	—	58 ± 2.5	42 ± 0.6	46 ± 3.8	57 ± 2.6	5.9 ± 1.6
Styrene oxide ^{CAR, HAP}	56 ± 6.3	—	60 ± 1.3	138 ± 10	47 ± 3.4	63 ± 4.9	—
Styrene ^{CAR, HAP, M}	108,000 ± 12,000	22,200 ± 4500	144,362 ± 10,135	112,000 ± 4000	134,000 ± 8900	125,000 ± 2600	10,400 ± 3300
1-Tetradecanol	98 ± 11.7	988 ± 180	—	—	—	—	—
1,2,3-TMB	19 ± 0.7	—	32 ± 1.5	18 ± 0.5	19 ± 0.5	38 ± 1.9	1.2 ± 1.7
1,2,4-TMB	113 ± 3	—	175 ± 9	105 ± 3	115 ± 4	186 ± 5	11 ± 5.2
1,3,5-TMB	36 ± 0.6	—	52 ± 1.9	53 ± 2.7	38 ± 0.8	56 ± 1.6	4.4 ± 0.5
Xylenes ^{HAP}	15 ± 1.2	—	22 ± 1.2	20 ± 0.4	21 ± 2.1	22 ± 1.0	7.1 ± 10.1
Est. Total ΣMass	113,007	31,631	152,312	116,513	138,246	135,958	11,581

Some chemicals found were from initiators, meant to react and facilitate polymerization, but also formed new chemicals

Trigonox®

Acetone

Acetophenone

Benzene

Benzoic acid

tert-Amyl alcohol

tert-Butanol

3-*tert*-Butoxyheptane

2-*tert*-Butyloxy-2,4,4-trimethylpentane

Carbon dioxide

3-(1,1-Dimethylpropoxy) heptane

Ethane

2-Ethylhexanoic acid

Heptane

Methane

2-Phenylisopropanol

3,3,5-Trimethylcyclohexanone

Perkadox®

Benzene

Benzoic acid

4-*tert*-Butylcyclohexanone

4-*tert*-Butylcyclohexanol

Carbon dioxide

Diphenyl

Phenylbenzoate

Tetradecanol

Butanox®

Acetic acid

Carbon dioxide

Formic acid

Propanoic acid

Methyl ethyl ketone

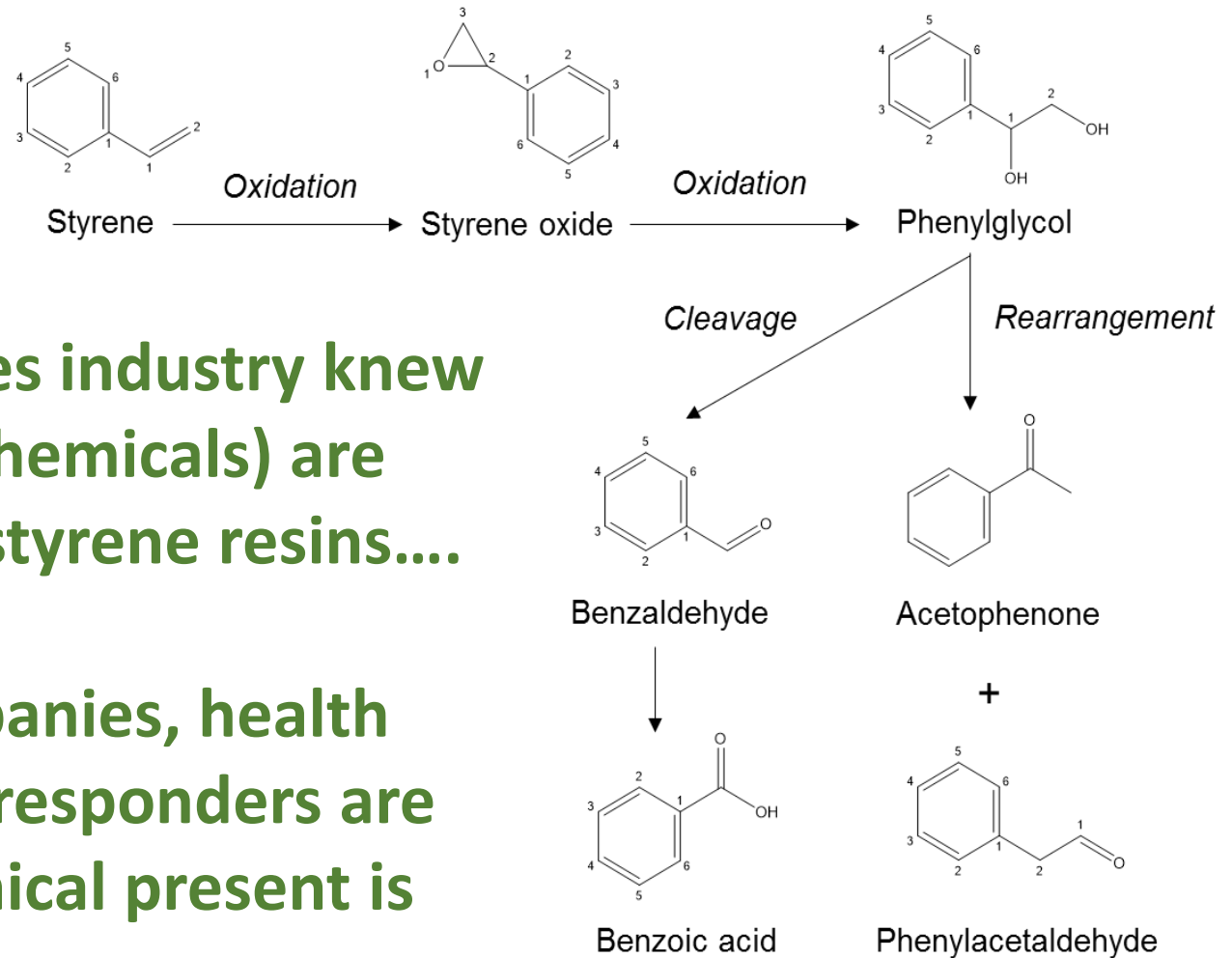
N,N-Dimethylaniline

Aniline

Carbon oxides

Nitric oxides

Ra et al. (2018) Critical Review: Surface Water & Stormwater Quality
Impacts of Cured-In-Place-Pipe Repairs. JAWWA.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/awwa.1042>



40 years ago the composites industry knew that byproducts (new chemicals) are produced when you cure styrene resins....

But CIPP workers, companies, health officials, and emergency responders are often told the only chemical present is styrene.

Pfäffli et al. 1979. Styrene and styrene oxide concentrations in the air during the lamination process in the reinforced plastics industry. *Scandinavian J. Work, Environ. & Health*, 158-161.

Our 2019 Study: Styrene, Other VOCs Present, PIDs, Workers can Cross-Contaminate their Equipment

Considerations for emission monitoring and liner analysis of thermally manufactured sewer cured-in-place-pipes (CIPP)

Download FREE here:

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2019.02.097>

Vapors found: Styrene (>86 ppm),
methylene chloride (>1.5 ppm), phenol

Many people using PIDs, but styrene vapor by PID can have 10x to 1000x error on worksite! - Unreliable.

1 to 2 wt% of final CIPP is VOC residual

Many VOCs and SVOCs in the new CIPP.

Workers contaminated non-styrene CIPP with styrene.



***In vitro* toxicity assessment of emitted materials collected during the manufacture of water pipe plastic linings**

Lisa Kobos, Seyedeh Mahboobeh Teimouri Sendesi, Andrew J. Whelton, Brandon Boor, John Howarter, **Jonathan Shannahan**

2019. *J. Inhalation Toxicology* <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/08958378.2019.1621966>

1. CIPP emissions likely should **not be regulated based on styrene alone** and exposure assessments of worksites would benefit from more comprehensive evaluation of emission components
Benzaldehyde, benzoic acid, phenol, 1-tetradecanol were all highest in Site 4 emissions
2. Efforts should be made to adequately **inform workers and the public** regarding emissions as there is a potential for toxicity following inhalation exposure
3. Minimize exposure, utilize proper personal protective equipment (PPE)
4. Investigate alterations in operational procedures to mitigate emissions and to understand potential adverse health effects
5. Based on our findings future studies should examine **cytotoxicity and cell injury, immune responses, fibrosis, and cancer** as these were pathways determined to be modified significantly in representative pulmonary cells following exposure

1 UV CIPP company completed a free and confidential NIOSH health hazard evaluation

Exposure to styrene (140 ppm)
exceeded the 15-min short-term
exposure limit of 100 ppm

Styrene and total VOC worker
exposure concentrations were
reduced when manhole ventilator
blower fans were used.

They now could fix their problems.

Evaluation of Exposures to Styrene During Ultraviolet Cured-in-place Pipe Installation

Ryan E. LeBouf, PhD, CIH
Dru A. Burns, MS

HE | Health Hazard
Evaluation Program

Report No. 2018-0009-3334
January 2019



PROBLEMS: Most CIPP studies 100% reliant on PID data and styrene vapor only considered

2001, Canada: 3.2 ppm styrene

2004, Canada: PID 110 ppm

2004, Germany: Draeger tube 20 ppm styrene

2004, Canada: PID 120 ppm styrene

2006, The Netherlands: PID 87 ppm styrene

2007, Virginia: 9.9 ppm styrene

2016, California: 1,070 ppm styrene

2017, PURDUE: Multiphase mixture, not just styrene vapor (1800-4300 ppm styrene + others)

2017, Virginia: PID 104 ppm styrene max.

2017, OSHA: 225-275 ppm styrene

2018, Alaska: PID >100 ppm styrene for 15 min

2018, New Zealand: 12 ppm styrene

2018, Oregon: PID 1,050 ppm styrene

2019, NIOSH: 140 ppm styrene and divinyl benzene

2019, PURDUE: >86 ppm styrene, >1.5 ppm methylene chloride. Multiple other VOCs: acetophenone, benzaldehyde, benzoic acid, phenol, tetradecanol

Remember the CIPP industry who stated our discoveries were unfounded?

4 years later... their report

Detected styrene vapor in air but also other VOCs including benzaldehyde, benzene, acetone, MEK, methylene chloride, phenol, toluene, and more...

The captured condensed material was not just styrene.

Styrene levels **up to 1,820 ppm** (in resin truck) and 316 ppm (exhaust pipe)

But several issues with sampling locations, data interpretation, representativeness, etc.

1 Steam/Hot Water CIPP company completed a free and confidential NIOSH health hazard evaluation

Exposure to styrene (105 ppm)
exceeded the short-term 15-min
NIOSH exposure limit of 100 ppm
and ACGIH limit of 20 ppm

Styrene levels downwind were
higher than upwind.

The uncured liners released styrene
into the air even though they were
wrapped in polyethylene.

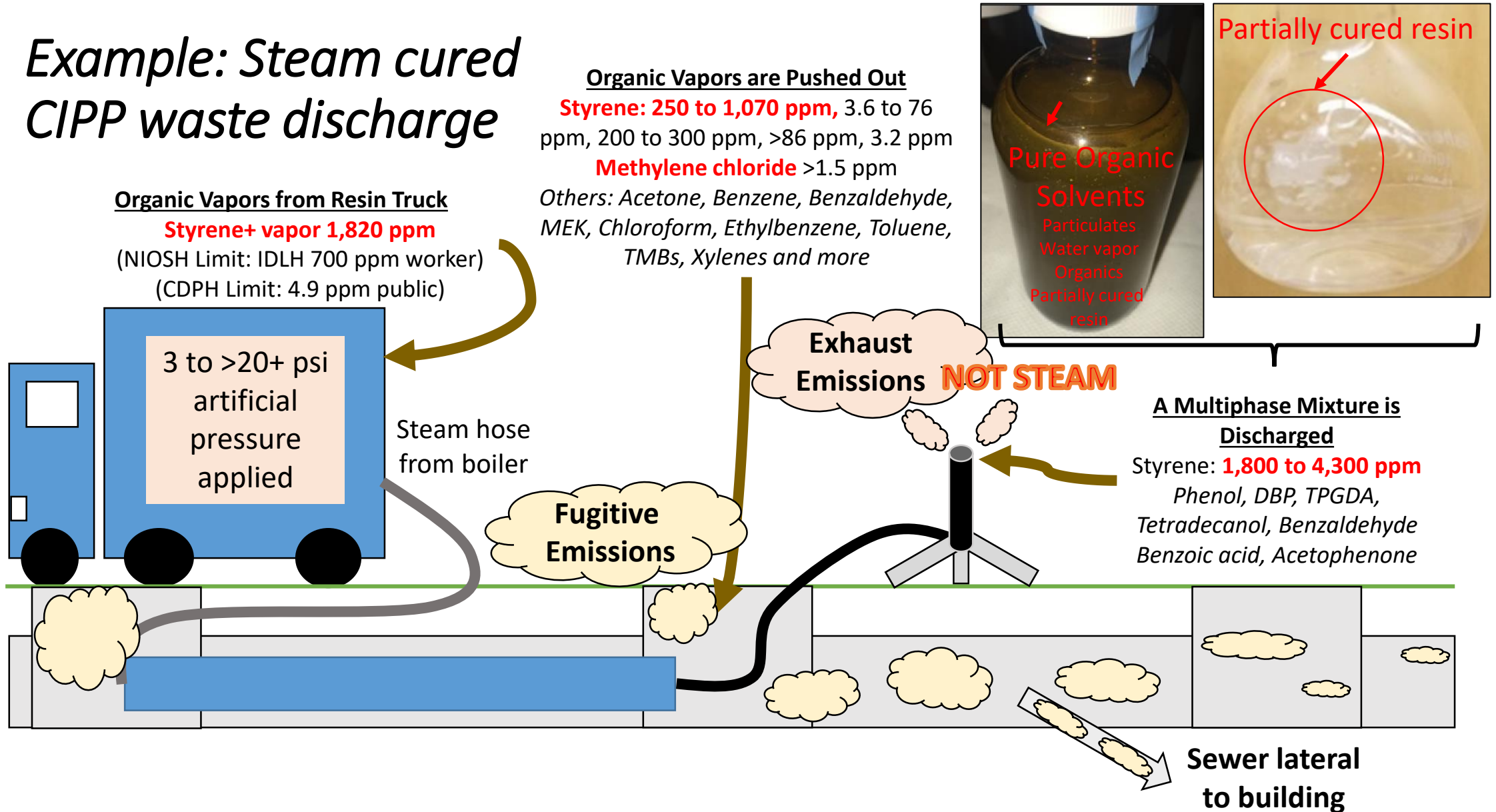
Evaluation of Exposures to Styrene during Cured-in-place Pipe Liner Preparation and during Pipe Repairs using Hot Water and Steam

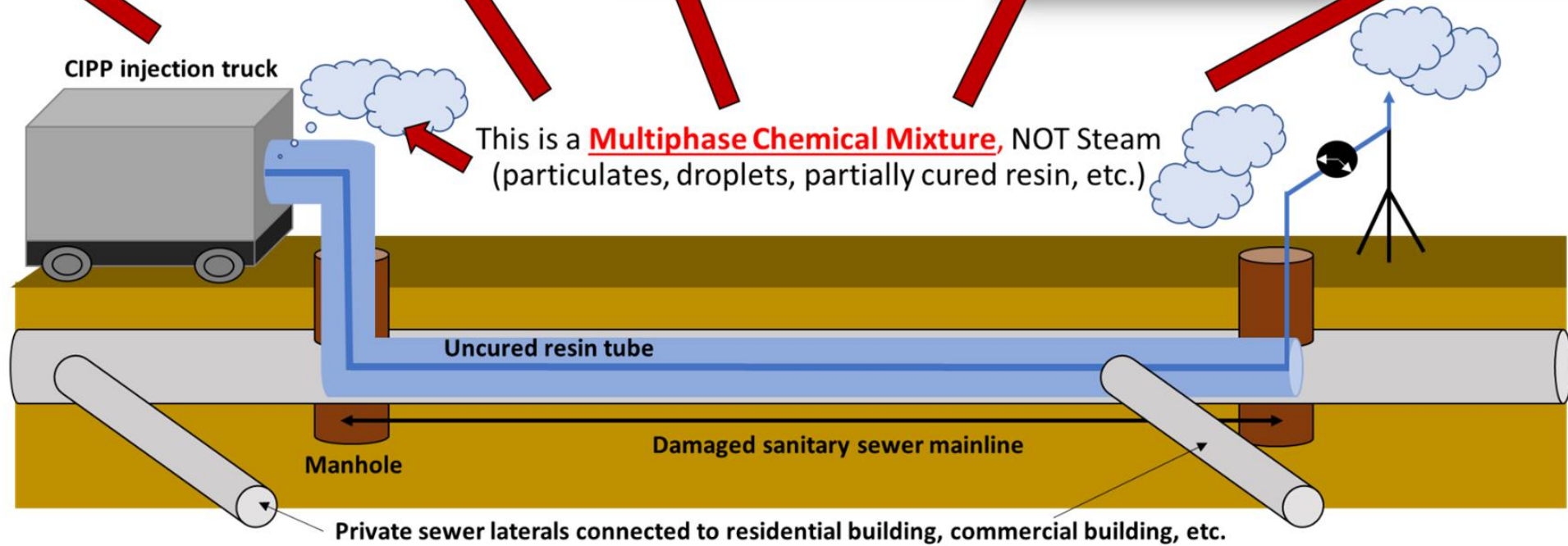
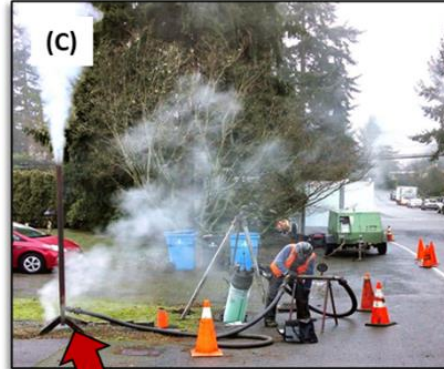
HHE Report No. 2019-0080-3379

July 2021

Concentrations differ by activity: Setup vs. Curing vs. Cooldown vs. Mechanical cutting

Example: Steam cured CIPP waste discharge





From 2017 to 2020:

Evidence we obtained debunked 20+ years of safety claims spread by contractors, municipalities, and consulting engineers

“Styrene vapor of at most few ppm” - False

“is not a human health risk” - False

“is safe for people and animals” - False

“it is harmless steam” - False

“no hazardous conditions posed” - False

“don’t be alarmed” - ?

“some people are offended by this odor and are fearful of it; even though the concentrations they smell present no harm” – It may in fact be harmful.



2019, New York City, NY

The failure to contain plastic manufacturing waste has had significant bystander health consequences

Cancer Care Center of Decatur evacuates due to odor caused by city sewer project
Illinois: Feb 20, 2020

Spooner Middle School reopens, identifies 'chemical exposure' that sickened 64 students and staff

Some parents aren't comfortable sending children back, saying district hasn't been open about what caused Nov. 10 evacuation

By Rich Kremer

Published: Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 6:10pm

Fumes Sicken 28 Pupils at Zamorano Elementary
California: Sept 21, 2017

Odor from sewer work causes teachers to fall ill at Riverview Elementary School
Washington: Oct 10, 2018

Evidence: CIPP caused chemical exposure incidents for the general public (info below not yet updated since 2019, more have occurred.)

2017 study (59)

Alexandria, Virginia	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Antigo, Wisconsin	Nashville, Tennessee
Arlington, Virginia	North Tonawanda, New York
Baltimore, Maryland	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Bellevue, Washington	Picayune, Mississippi
Bethlehem, New York	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Boston, Massachusetts	Port Huron, Michigan
Botany Village, New Jersey	Prairie Village, Kansas
Brooklyn, New York	Rensselaer, New York
Cambridge, Massachusetts	Saint Louis, Missouri
Cheektowaga, New York	Saint Petersburg, Florida
Clear Creek, Colorado	Saugus, Massachusetts
Des Moines, Iowa	Snellville, Georgia
Fayetteville, New York	Southfield, Michigan
Good Hope, Illinois	West Lafayette, Indiana
Helena, Montana	Willamette River, Oregon
Kensington, Maryland	Williams Co. Village, Ohio
Lincoln, Nebraska	Worcester, Massachusetts
Lorain County, Ohio	Unidentified, Illinois
Madison, Wisconsin	Unidentified, Minnesota

Teimouri et al. (2017) *Environ. Sci. Technol. Letters*.
<https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.estlett.7b00237>

2019 study (45)

Andersen, Indiana	Lees Summit, Missouri
Aurora, Colorado	Midland, Michigan
Austin, Texas	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Alexandria, Virginia	North Attleboro, Massachusetts
Arlington, Virginia	Nyack, New York
Arlington, Kentucky	New York, New York
Barnet, Vermont	Richmond, Virginia
Bend, Oregon	Salem, Virginia
Bolivar, Missouri	Sarasota, Florida
Bronxville, New York	Saint Louis Park, Minnesota
Burlington, Kentucky	Saint Paul, Minnesota
Charlotte, North Carolina	San Diego, California
Chattanooga, Tennessee	South Heights, Pennsylvania
Columbia, Missouri	South Pasadena, California
Darlington, Wisconsin	Tampa, Florida
Dublin, California	Terra Haute, Indiana
Effingham, Illinois	Vancouver, Washington
Falls Church, Virginia	Weymouth, Massachusetts
Hattiesburg, Mississippi	Whitesboro, New York
Honolulu, Hawaii	

Ra et al. (2019) *J. Haz. Materials*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2019.02.097>

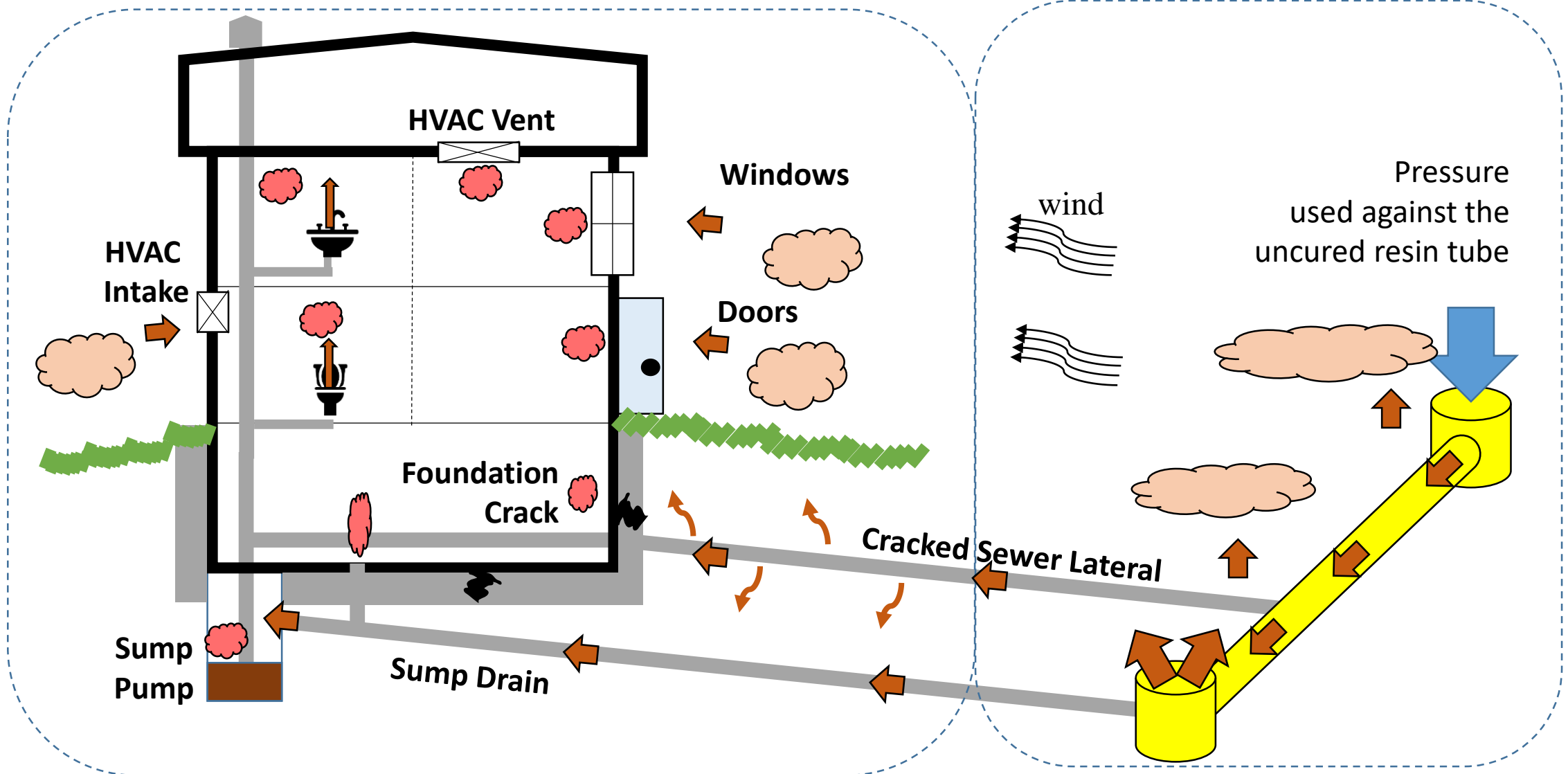
OCONUS (11)

Brisbane, AUS
Birmingham, UK
Cornwall, UK
Manchester, UK
Somerset, UK
Surrey, UK
Montréal, CAN
Ontario, CAN
Ottawa, CAN
Québec, CAN
Toronto, CAN

Known Exposures in 30+ States
California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin

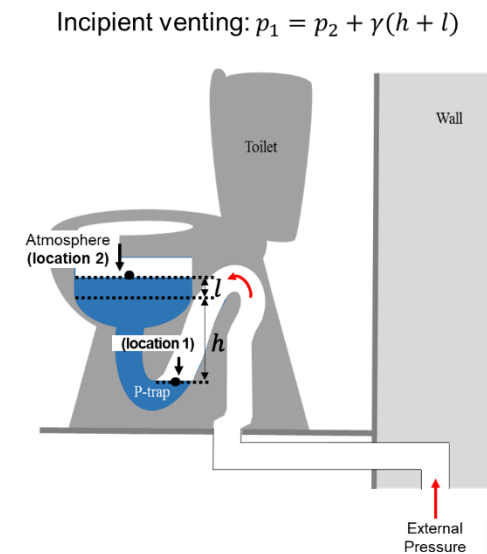
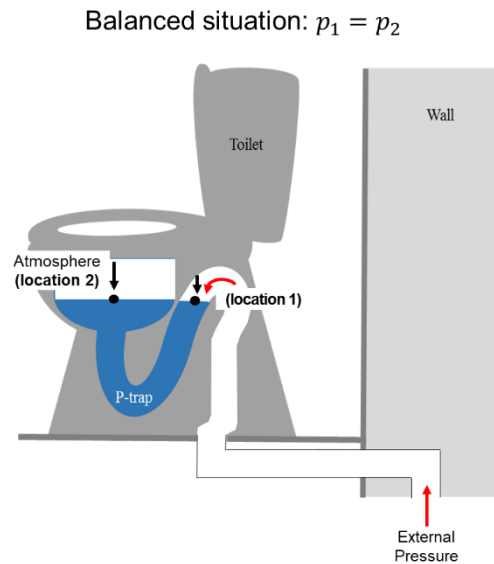
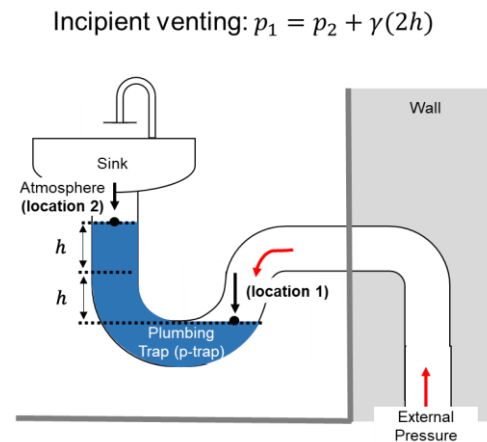
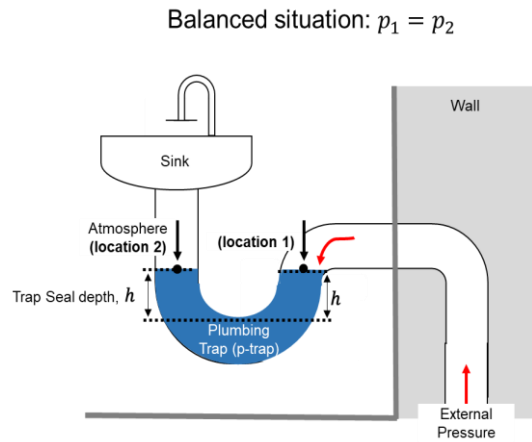
Private Property
(not for contractors)

Utility/City Property
(Worksite only for contractors)



Emergency responder and public health considerations for plastic sewer lining chemical waste exposures in indoor environments

Plumbing traps (p-traps) are required on all plumbing fixtures, including toilet, sink, bathtubs, shower, and floor drain *to prevent transient gases, insects, and rodents from entering the room*



Reported pressure applied by contractors during sewer lining:

3 psi to 28 psi

The relative (gage) pressure needed to displace the water seal

Sink= 0.14 psi

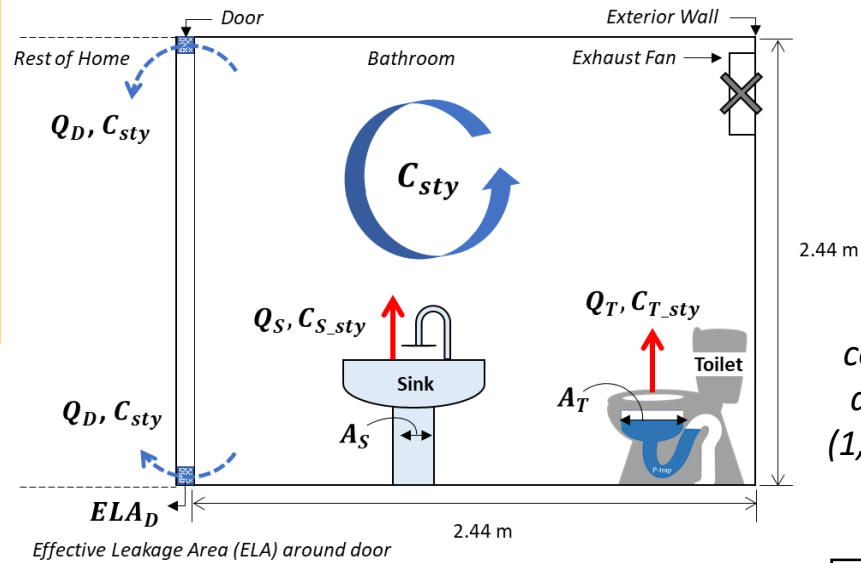
Toilet= 1.28 psi

Only 0.5% to 43% of the total pressure applied by the contractor would be needed to prompt wastewater blowback

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2021.126832>

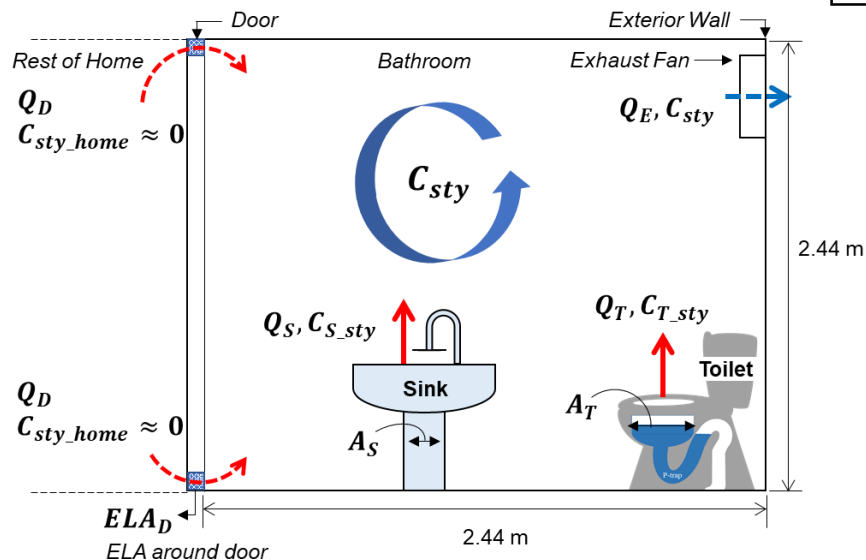
Bathroom chemical air contamination and decontamination model simulation

Non-ventilation Condition

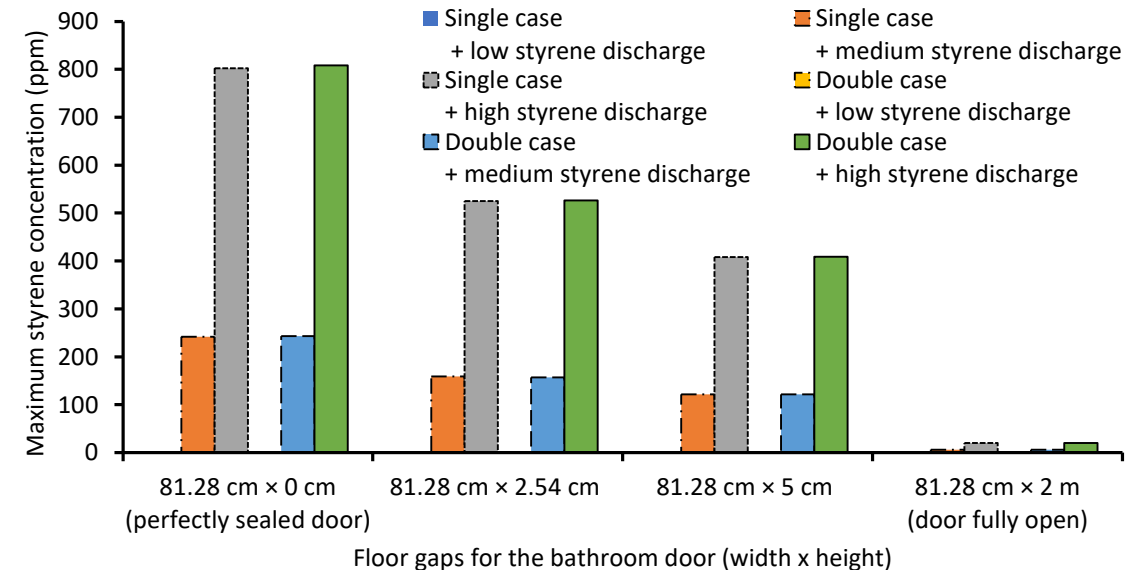
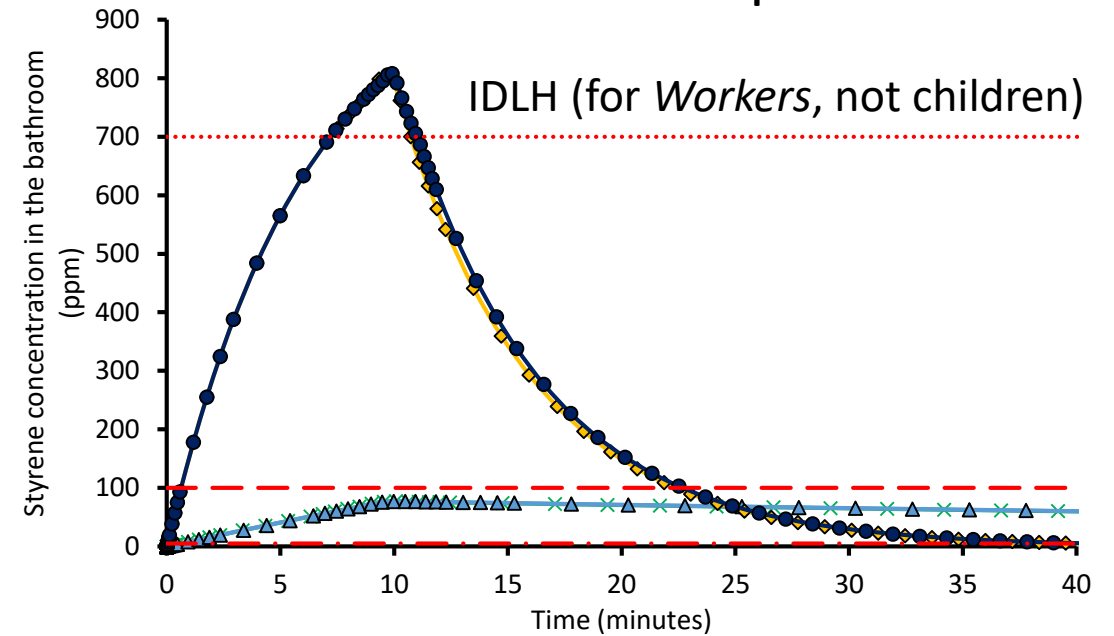


Indoor styrene concentration change after constant inflow (1,000 ppm_v for 10 min) into the bathroom

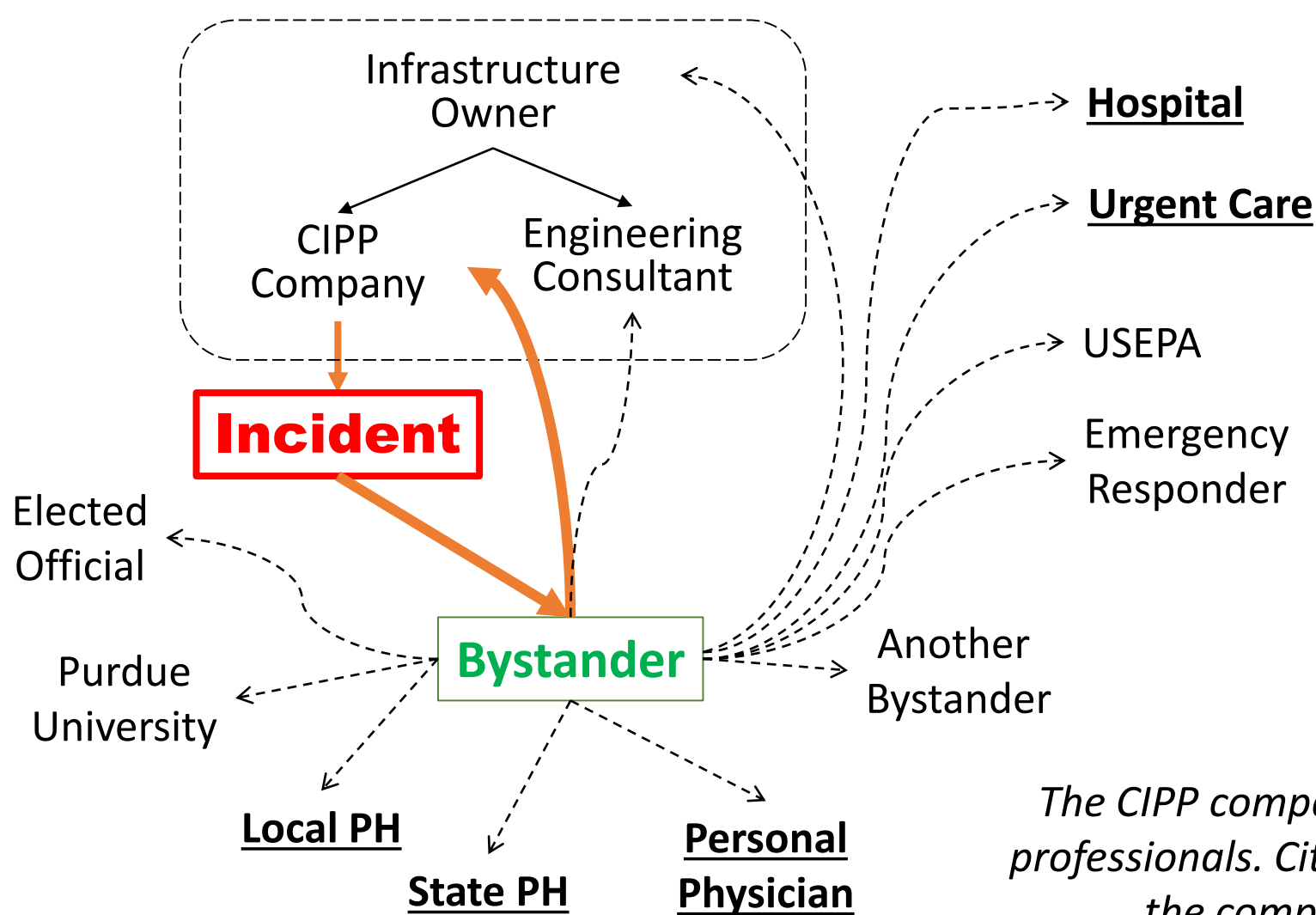
Ventilation Condition



The bathroom air styrene concentration was influenced by bathroom exhaust fan operation




What's the extent of the problem?




The CIPP company notifies bystanders, not medical professionals. City encourages bystanders to contact the company. None have medical experience.

Technology and system awareness: The California Department of Health and Florida Department of Health have taken initiative to warn health officials, municipalities, and the public



Safety Alert

Cure-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) Vapor Migration into Buildings



Background

The use of CIPP for sewer line and culvert rehabilitation is widespread throughout the country and abroad. Styrene-based resins are the most widely used.


There is a possibility for chemical releases with CIPP processes. In addition to styrene, recent studies have shown numerous volatile chemicals being released during CIPP installations that have previously been reported.

Migration of vapors from installed CIPP can result in indoor air resulting in exposure to building occupants.

There have been over 130 CIPP exposures reported in 30 states.

A project involving a large diameter sewer line installation resulted in styrene vapors migrating into an office building, exceeding acceptable exposure levels. Building occupants experienced health symptoms. Styrene was measured for up to three months following the CIPP installation.

Styrene is not the only chemical emitted, but it may be the most common for identifying vapor intrusion impacts.



Styrene health effects

- Central nervous system depression
- Mucous membrane irritation (skin, tract, eyes, nose and throat).
- Nervous system effects include headache, fatigue, changes in color vision, concentration and balance problems.
- Potential to cause cancer.


Concerns during CIPP installation

- Styrene and other toxic vapors can migrate during **cure-in-place pipe (CIPP)** installation into buildings through windows, doors, cracks in foundations, laterals, compromised plumbing connections, and subsurface voids, resulting in potentially harmful exposure to occupants.
- Vapor migration is highly variable due to subsurface conditions, job size, and building characteristics.

May 2020 (update)

Mission:
To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

CURED-IN-PLACE-PIPE [CIPP]

Cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) installation is a relatively new method used for sewer line and culvert rehabilitation. Recently, concerns were raised regarding the possibility of residual chemical releases during the installation process and related harm to human health.

This factsheet will help you to learn more about the CIPP process — what it is, how it may harm your health and how to protect yourself and your family from possible health effects.

General Facts

[CIPP Regulation and Advisories](#)
[Biomonitoring and Blood Testing](#)

General Facts

What is CIPP?
Cured-in-place-pipes (CIPP) are jointless, seamless, flexible plastic pipe liners chemically installed within an existing sewer, water, gas or storm pipe.

CIPP is used during the repair process of existing sewer lines, culvert and drinking water pipes. The process involves the insertion of an uncured resin into the existing, defective pipe. Hot air and/or water or ultraviolet light are used to expand and cure the resin, thus creating a liner to fit against the wall of the "broken" pipe.

The purpose of the curing process is to reduce existing leaks and cracks in the pipe that would otherwise allow rainwater and roots to enter the sewer pipe, causing sanitation problems such as stoppages and overflows. The new liner can also help prevent future leaks and cracks.

Why is CIPP used?
CIPP is used to repair pipes without disturbance to surface structures or other utilities in broken pipes. It is advertised by some contractors to be a more efficient and cheaper process to repair pipes. Some new CIPPs are designed to have an estimated 50-year lifespan.

What does CIPP consist of?
A new CIPP is created using a number of materials: a resin, a chemical initiator package, a reinforcement material and other additives. The most popular resins today include:

- Styrene-based polyester
- Styrene-based vinyl ester
- Vinyl ester (styrene free)
- Epoxy (styrene free)

Why is the CIPP process a concern?
Chemicals are released into the air during a CIPP project setup, while the CIPP is made and after the plastic liner has been created. The tube of uncured resin as well as its delivery and handling can release chemicals into the air. In addition, forced air, steam and hot water use also releases chemicals into the air and can potentially transfer the chemicals from the process into a worksite, nearby pipes, nearby residences through plumbing, open windows, doors, cracked foundations and in the environment causing

1 | Page

UPDATED: 09-28-2020

Environmental impacts have been less studied

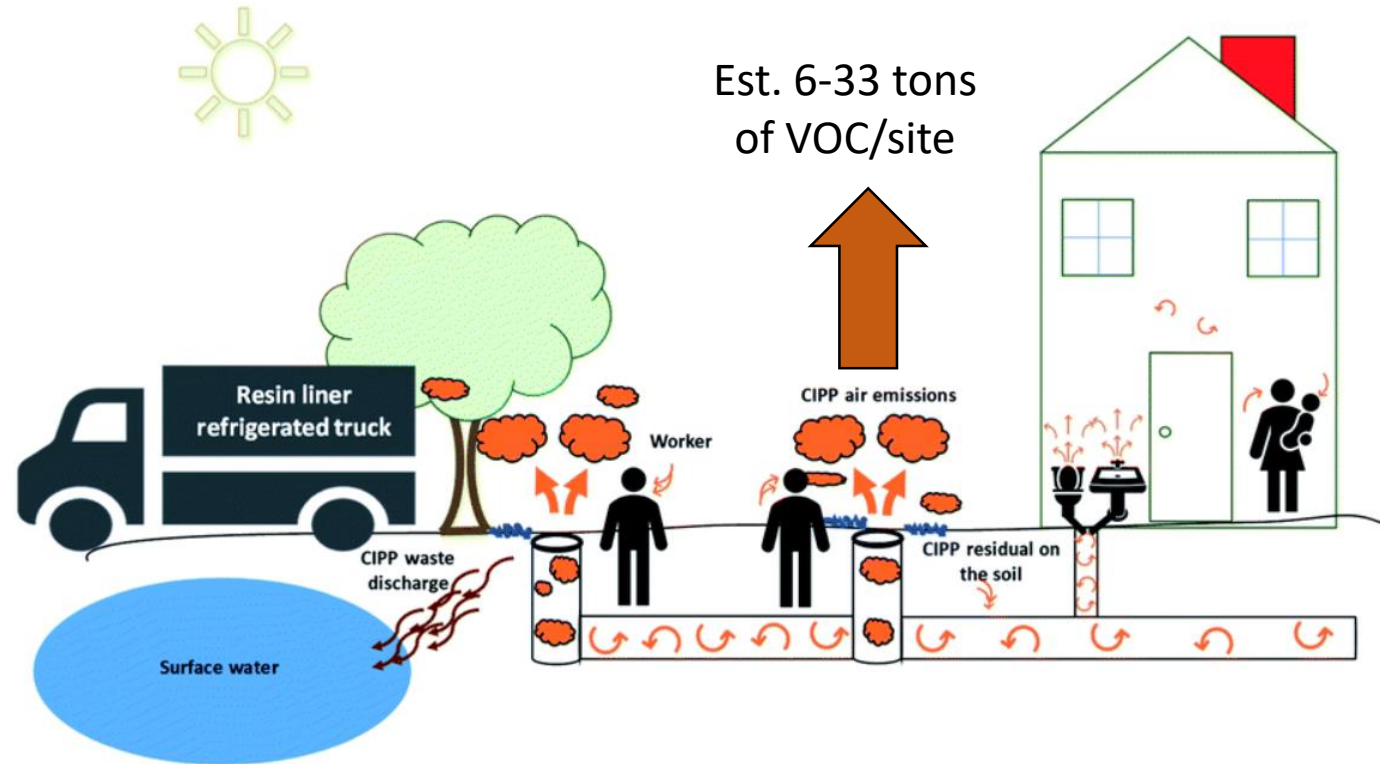
Resin VOCs evaporate and are discharged into the environment during curing (est. 8.87 wt% lost)

[[Est. 6-33 tons per CIPP project]]

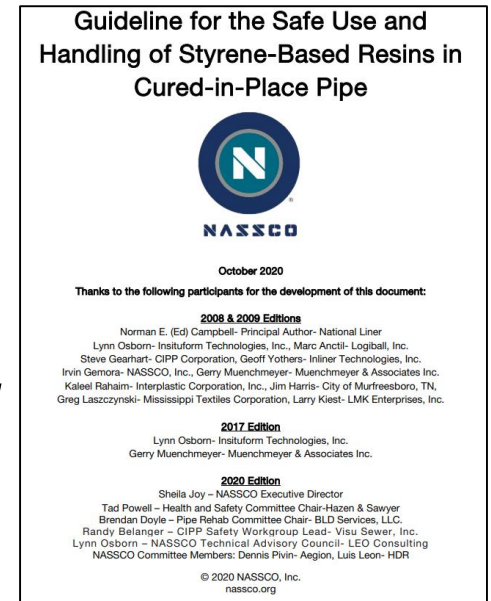
Can ventilating the new CIPP fix the use phase styrene release problem? - No

Perspective: Under section 112 of the Clean Air Act, the plastic pipe and pipe fitting manufacturing industry [NAICS code 326122] must follow a permit limit of less than 100 tons per year of HAP emission.

61,000 to 454,000 kg of resin sometimes used per project



CIPP companies *and* engineering consultants have encouraged CIPP companies to discharge the untreated hazardous air pollutant waste into the air by
“...*maximizing the flow of air through the curing CIPP...*”



An estimated **6 to 33 tons of VOC is discharged into the air *per project***

- CIPP companies seem to be discharging HAP/EDC/CAR air pollution at scales classified under the *Clean Air Act*
- Environmental Assessments under NEPA should consider this air pollution

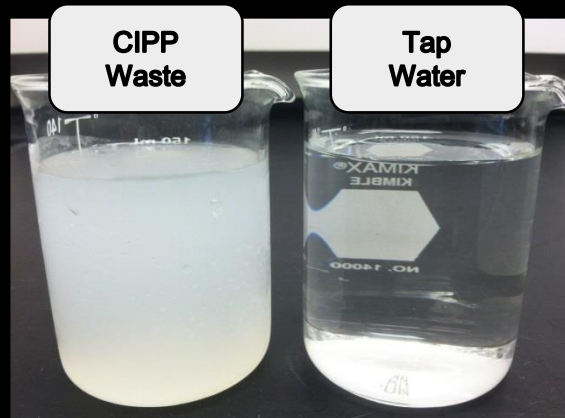
New CIPPs release VOCs into the air *after* being placed into service

Styrene-free, VOC-free CIPPs release pollution too

To date...USEPA has been relatively unaware of the pollution.



Until 2020, the CIPP industry encouraged companies to dump their waste into “streams and ditches”



Fish kills, drinking water contamination, wastewater treatment plant upsets, waste dissolves organisms at room temperature

August 2019 in Carlisle, PA

1 of the top 10 U.S. trout streams:
200+ fish kill caused by CIPP waste

Styrene found, temperature not high

NOV issued to city; Criminal/law enforcement, and environmental enforcement investigations opened

Our 2022 Study: Change the resins to reduce pollution

Environmental and Human Health Risks of Plastic Composites can be Reduced by Optimizing Manufacturing Conditions

Download FREE here:

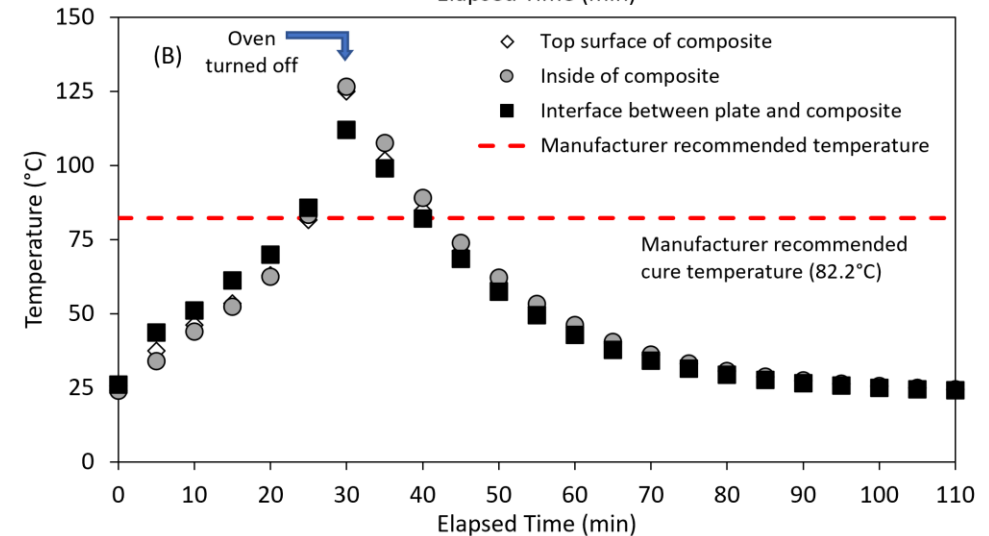
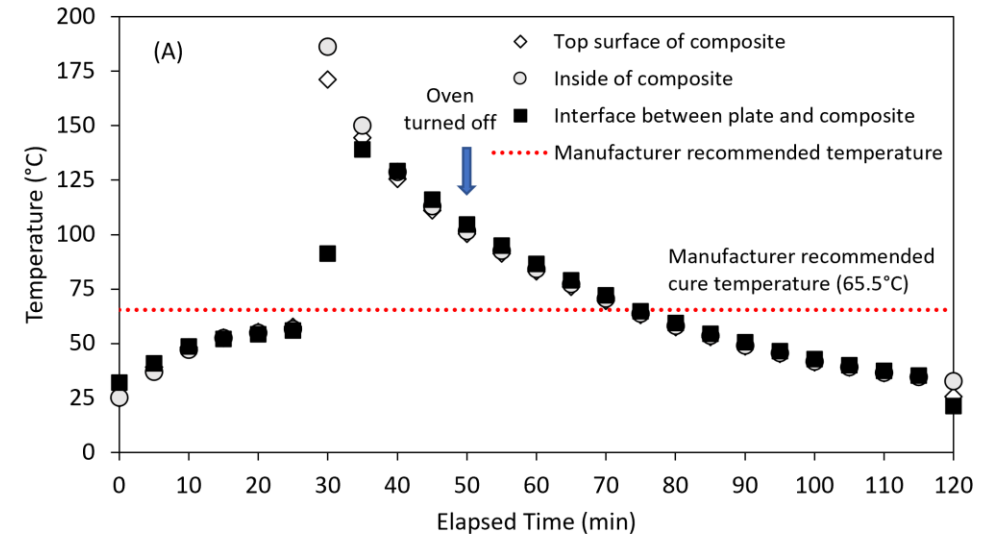
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2022.131803>

Styrene resin (39% VOC) vs. Nonstyrene resin (4% VOC)

Resin manufacturer contaminated their Nonstyrene resin with a styrene resin (*Companies do not test before installation*)

By increasing the initiator loading we reduced styrene (-42%) and styrene oxide (-32%) residuals.

Only 2 compounds listed on MSDS, but 8 chemically identified



RISKS OF INFRASTRUCTURE RENOVATION: BYSTANDER INJURIES DUE TO SEWER PIPE REPAIR EMISSIONS



1. The primary health concern is the chemical waste. Styrene has exceeded levels where acute harm occurs for the general public (4.9 ppm), the IDLH concentration (700 ppm), and where [NIOSH](#) recommends –*worker*– respiratory protection (500 ppm).
2. Chemicals other than styrene are emitted and can cause harm.
3. SDSs do not list all resin chemicals, those being created and discharged into the air. New chemicals are created that can cause acute health impacts.
4. Do not use odor to determine whether or not the exposure is safe for children, adults, and pets.
5. Popular 4-gas meters cannot detect the chemicals discharged at CIPP worksites.
6. PID meters do not reliably quantify chemicals of concern at CIPP sites, 10 to 1,000 [times](#) off.
7. Chemical waste enters buildings multiple ways. CIPP pressures can displace plumbing trap water seals.
8. Neighboring buildings may have starkly different contamination levels.

RISKS OF INFRASTRUCTURE RENOVATION: BYSTANDER INJURIES DUE TO SEWER PIPE REPAIR EMISSIONS



9. First responders should

- Halt the CIPP process to gain control of the incident. (Waste left containment)
- Remove exposure victims from the area and provide medical attention.
- Ventilate the building and conduct testing to determine contamination is fully removed
- Prepare the incident report and include description of site observations and discussions with contractors, general public, etc.

10. In building chemical levels ...

... may be drastically lower than the initial exposure IF ventilation starts before emergency responders arrive.

... can increase DUE to ventilation.

CIPP can likely be used without endangering human health if appropriate controls were implemented.

To reduce risks posed to emergency responders & bystanders...

1. Petition Public Works and Pipe Owners to require lesser polluting CIPP, capture the waste and/or use of other pipe repair practices
2. Require the Public Health Department be notified before projects begin
3. Request a free NIOSH health hazard evaluation for worksites and buildings
4. Request NIOSH evaluate rapid air testing devices for CIPP incident response



Thank you. Questions?

Andrew Whelton, Ph.D. awhelton@purdue.edu

CIPPSafety@purdue.edu'."/>

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APPLY NEWS PRESIDENT SHOP VISIT GIVE EMERGENCY 🔍

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UNIVERSITY

Home Resources ▾ News Team Intranet ▾

Cured-in-Place Pipe Safety Study

News In the News

[DOT Lining Study \(Surface and Storm Water Quality\)](#)

- [Scientific file](#), *Journal of the American Water Works Association*, May 2018
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

[NSF Rapid CIPP Study \(Worker, Public Safety, and Chemical Air Emissions\)](#)

- [Scientific report files & associated video files](#), *Environmental Science & Technology Letters*, July 2017
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)

[Incorrect assertions about the NSF Rapid CIPP study](#)

In 2016, Purdue researchers began investigating chemical emissions and exposures caused by cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) water pipe repair sites. CIPP is the most popular water pipe repair technologies used in the U.S. Because this technology uses raw chemicals in the field and manufacturers a new plastic pipe inside an existing damaged water pipe, chemicals can be emitted into the environment and enter nearby buildings. CIPP is used for sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and drinking water pipe repairs.

Questions? Contact us at CIPPSafety@purdue.edu

Funded by:

NSF 2129166

NSF RAPID 1624183

USEPA XA00E02898

FHWA TPF-5(339)

NIEHS R03ES030783

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Learn more at:

www.CIPPSafety.org

www.PlumbingSafety.org



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