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## **Q: What's that Smell???**

**A:** You are smelling styrene, it is a major component of the resin used to make sewer liners like the one we are installing installed in your area. We are using a process called Cured-In-Place-Pipe or CIPP. Styrene is used in thousands of products including Styrofoam, plastics (even food containers), rubber and carpet.

### **Q: It smells like it might be dangerous, is it?**

**A:** Styrene is dangerous in very high concentrations, but can be detected by our nose at very low concentrations. It is nearly impossible to for it to reach a high enough concentration to be dangerous at the levels being released around our job site.

### **Q: When will the smell go away?**

**A:** Our work normally takes place within a day's time. The smell should be gone from the outside area when we leave, other than some very slight odors possible coming from the manholes around the lines we worked on.

### **Q: I smell the styrene in my house/basement, is that normal?**

**A:** No. If you smell styrene in your house or basement you have drain plumbing that is not working properly. It might be that the water traps in your drains are dried out, or that there are no traps in the pipe. The level of styrene in your basement is probably not dangerous, but it is an indicator that you are likely getting sewer gas into your residence on a regular basis. Sewer gas has the potential to be very dangerous, so we recommend fixing the drain problems immediately. Ventilate the area to get rid of the smell and have a professional plumber inspect the drains.

### **Q: Can you check the level of styrene?**

**A:** We do have a device for testing the level of styrene. While it is highly unlikely that there are dangerous levels in your residence, we can perform a test to determine the actual level. The tests give instant results but cost us about \$10 each, so we will only test one area within a residence.

### **Exposure Levels & Regulatory Ratings**

.1 ppm – Detectable by smell

40 ppm – Voluntarily imposed limit for safe working without protective respirators

100 ppm – OSHA permissible exposure limit, averaged over 8 hours

200ppm – OSHA permissible exposure limit, short term exposure

600ppm – OSHA maximum exposure limit, 5 minutes period within any 3 hour time

900,000ppm – Concentration required for explosive combustion

**NFPA Ratings** (0 minimum – 4 maximum): Health – **2**, Flammability – **3**, Reactivity – **2**