

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

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MEMO TO: Area Plumbing Contractors
MEMO FROM: Martha Tasker, Director of Utilities
DATE: March 18, 2009
SUBJECT: Plugging Abandoned Building (House) Sewers

The Uniform Plumbing Code Section 722.1 requires every abandoned building (house) sewer, or part thereof, shall be plugged or capped in an approved manner within five (5) feet of the property line. Due to the various methods utilized to plug or cap abandoned sewer lines, some of which fail to properly provide an effective barrier against infiltration of stormwater/groundwater to the public sewer collection mains, it becomes necessary to provide a standard for plugging these abandoned sewer lines.

After reviewing the effectiveness of the current plumbing practices of plugging sewer lines, and the merits of certain commercial devices designed specifically for plugging sewer lines, we have concluded the utilization of readily available commercial devices designed to provide a positive barrier to infiltration will address our concerns. These devices are inserted into the abandoned sewer line and do not require the cutting of the pipe to produce a non-jagged edge.

The capping of abandoned sanitary sewer lines shall be accomplished with the installation of one of the following devices:

- (a) "T" Cone Expandable Pipe Plug as manufactured by ETCO Specialty Products, Inc.
- (b) Gripper Mechanical Plug as manufactured by Cherne Industries, Inc.
- (c) Device approved by the Director of Utilities.

Devices designed to be installed over the outside of the pipe barrel are not acceptable. The above listed devices shall be installed in accordance with the manufacture's recommendations and do not require the placement of a concrete collar around the end of the abandoned sewer line.

Please contact me at (785) 309-5725 if you have any questions regarding this administrative policy.

BLF – 218, 3-09, T:\Forms\Handouts
Reviewed by Martha Tasker, 8-2012, no changes