

EAST WINDSOR WPCA

SEWER LINE MAINTENANCE

HOW AND WHEN WE DECIDE TO PERFORM CAMERA WORK

We must clean or flush all sewer lines in town to avoid backups within homes and business. Over the years, we have learned where our “trouble spots” are; these are areas or sections of pipe that tend to plug often, run sluggishly, or have odor problems. Additionally, we sometimes get “alerted” that there is a larger issue, as we see mud, debris, and construction objects pulled back to the man-hole as we flush. Finally, we occasionally get stopped in the line, unable to move forward with the jet flush nozzle, due to roots, broken pipe, offsets and other issues that remain unknown to us.

pipe allowing dirt, sand and rocks to enter the sewer line can lead to the undermining of the street. Worst case would be at some point the street could cave in.



East Windsor Crew Flushing along Main Street, Broadbrook



Dirt on the beach and in the line of the sewer manhole.

Anytime we see debris pulled back to the man-hole, we feel there is a need to see what the problem is underneath the ground. The only way for us to learn is by camera inserted into the pipe. This becomes our eyes. Our fear when observing debris in the line is that the pipe integrity is somehow failing. A broken



Sewer Line Camera ready to work.



View from inside the control vehicle, showing root blockage.



Worst case, broken pipe underground.

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If we get stopped in the pipe, we do not know if this is definitely caused by roots, or if the pipe is broken or offset. We have been warned by our Jet Truck Manufacturer that we should under no circumstances ever place the root cutter into the sewer line without first using a camera to see what it is we are up against. Sending the cutter into an offset pipe could do more damage than already exist.



Flushing the over 30-miles of sewer line is an unending job.



Root-Cutter is never used without knowing what is underneath.



Above - Broken pipe taken out of a line.

Right: Collection of construction debris and fill taken out of sewer line on Main Street, Broadbrook.



Lessons to abide by:

- Flush lines regularly.
- When something isn't right, have it checked out as soon as possible, especially if it is on a high traffic area.
- Keep a database of video from year to year, so that integrity of the pipe can be verified.
- Always camera a line before sending in the root cutter.
- Log the trouble spots in the lines for future repair.

Section 22a-430-3 of The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies - (f) **Proper operation and maintenance.**

(1) The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems and parts thereof for wastewater collection, storage, treatment and control which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit. Proper operation and maintenance includes but is not limited to effective performance, adequate funding, and adequate operator staffing and training, including the employment of certified operators as may be required by the commissioner pursuant to sections 22a-416-1 through 22a-416-10 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies, as amended, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures.