

Location: _____ Instructor: _____ Date/Time: _____

TOPIC C333: SEPTIC TANK AND PORTABLE TOILET SERVICE

Introduction: When properly designed, installed, operated and maintained, septic systems and portable toilet facilities provide economical and effective sewage treatment. The decomposition process of sewage uses many helpful microorganisms, like bacteria, in the process. However, the tank also contains harmful bacteria, viruses, and other disease causing microorganisms. Liquid and solid contents of the septic system are capable of causing infectious diseases. Follow these guidelines for safe maintenance of septic tanks and portable toilets:

Safety issues for sewage:

- Make sure that everyone responsible for septic tank and portable toilet service work is trained in the procedures for cleaning, pumping, and maintaining them, and the safe operation of all equipment involved
- Always wear the necessary PPE:
 - Eye/face protection to guard against splashing
 - Protective clothes, like coveralls
 - Respiratory protection
 - Chemical resistant rubber gloves
 - Chemical resistant rubber boots
- Never enter septic tank
- If you smell sewer gases inside a structure, identify the source and correct it immediately. If the gas smell is strong, evacuate the building
- Never use electrical appliances or tools in or close to the water or wet ground near a septic tank, this can cause an explosion or electrical shock
- Keep vehicles and other heavy equipment away from the septic system, the tank may be corroded and collapse
- Never smoke near septic holding tank openings. Gases, such as methane, are potentially combustible
- All waste must be disposed of at an approved disposal facility in an approved manner. Permits may be required to dispose of waste at a disposal facility

Pumping and Cleaning Operations:

- Each compartment of a septic tank must be pumped whenever it is opened for cleaning
- Cleaning operations must not endanger human health or the environment

Chemical Toilet Requirements:

- Toilet facilities must be designed, built and maintained to prevent access of flies or vermin to the waste
- The interior surfaces of all toilets must be of durable, smooth, non-absorbent material, easily cleanable, and finished in a light color
- Toilet facilities must be ventilated and provided with self-closing doors lockable from the inside
- The tanks of chemical toilets must be made of durable, easily cleanable material. Tank size must be large enough to hold the initial chemical charge and have the capacity for at least one day's use for forty persons, The minimum tank capacity is forty gallons
- Tanks must be built to prevent spillage from occurring when tipped or turned over
- Only biodegradable chemicals, capable of controlling odors, disinfecting, and liquefying solids, can be used in chemical toilets

Conclusion: Septic tank and portable toilet servicing is a necessary task that helps preserve the health and safety of the public and environment. All workers involved in this work must follow safe procedures for servicing and protect their own health as well.

Employee Attendance:(Names or signatures of personnel who are attending this meeting)

These guidelines do not supersede local, state or federal regulations, and must not be construed as a substitute for, or legal interpretation of, any OSHA regulations.