



28 November 2011

Urgent need to ensure that all activities are well controlled on our sites



Ensure controls and monitoring are in place for contractor and third party supervision or work **must not** go ahead

An incident at Hyde wastewater treatment works demonstrates what can go wrong when the detailed planning and rigorous control of work isn't undertaken to the required standard.

A contractor working on pumps in the dry well had disconnected the inlet manifold; implications of this had not been accurately assessed and when the works inlet received high storm flows, the outlet end of the rising main was submerged and siphoned raw sewage back into the dry well, rapidly flooding it. Luckily, the contractors working in the dry well

had left for the day. A line taken from the method statement for the task simply said that they would "*Consult with UU Ops about isolating and setting up of overpumping for foul pumps.*"

What went wrong?

This incident is still being investigated but initial findings have shown that:

- The full implications of undertaking this work were not considered and therefore the necessary controls were not put in place
- The roles and responsibilities in relation to the control and coordination of this work were unclear to some on site
- Isolations to undertake this work were not specified or recorded in the work access certificate

What you need to do:

- Ensure all personnel are inducted to site
- Undertake a pre-start meeting with the site owner, person coordinating the work and the contractor or third party involved. Complete the pre-start checklist
- Ensure that the roles and responsibilities for those coordinating and controlling the work are clear to all involved and that there is no duplication of roles
- Ensure that adequate time and effort has been given to the design of any modifications and that this is reflected in the risk assessment and method statement
- Ensure that adequate, time and effort has been given to considering the implications of the work being undertaken
- Ensure the correct authorisation documents are issued and that all necessary controls (i.e. isolations) are specified, agreed, recorded and understood by all involved.
- Ensure a monitoring regime is in place to ensure work is being undertaken in accordance with the agreed method statement and risk assessments

Nothing we do is worth getting hurt for.

Where any doubt exists, ensure no work commences and consult an appropriate expert.

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If you are a manager, please ensure that your team members are aware of the content of this Bulletin or where indicated issue to external contractors. Additional information or guidance required on the content is available from the UU SHEQ team.

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