Background

CDPH Alert

The CDPH Cure-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) Safety Alert, issued in July 2017, is not a comprehensive engineering guide for controlling chemical releases; rather, its purpose is to raise awareness and provide some steps that should be considered by municipalities permitting CIPP projects in their jurisdiction.

Concerns

Studies of chemical releases during the installation and curing of CIPP are limited and protocols for controlling exposures have not been developed. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) do not describe all of the compounds present in the raw materials or emitted into the air during CIPP installation.

A July 2017 study conducted by Purdue University (http://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.estlett.7b00237) shows steam released during the installation process is made up of a complex mixture of volatile (VOC) and semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOC), including styrene, acetone, phenol, phthalates and others.

CIPP installations can emit multiple chemicals into the air, some of which may be toxic. There is no credible testing data for all CIPP installation scenarios. The odor produced by a CIPP installation may be caused by one or more compounds in the air.

The public, workers involved in CIPP installations, and first responders can be exposed to toxic vapors. The following provides additional considerations for municipalities that utilize CIPP technology in their jurisdiction.

Considerations

Health

Persons who detect an odor and experience health symptoms near CIPP installation sites should contact their medical provider and local health department.

Air monitoring

Four-gas meters, commonly used by the first responders, do not detect styrene or other chemicals emitted during the CIPP process.

Installation

Utilities, engineering firms, and CIPP contractors should not tell residents the exposures are safe.

The pressure from the CIPP process can blow water out of toilets or drains allowing vapors to enter. Filling up plumbing traps with water does not guarantee vapors will not enter through other building entry points such as cracks in foundations, doors, windows, and air intakes.

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