

## TASK OUTLINE

Effective Date: 07/06/07

Approved By: Director of Facilities Management

Cancels: FM 88-5 and 90-2

See Also: POL-U5950.06

### **TSK-5750.09A      USING ACID DRAIN CLEANER**

The plumbing supervisor shall notify area occupants that acid is being used to clear the drain and shall post boundaries if the area is heavily trafficked. Once this has been done, the plumbing personnel shall:

1. Stay near the drain until the acid clears the blockages; Do Not Leave the Drain Unattended!
2. Flush cleared drain of all acid residual.
3. Refer to the Workplace Hazard Assessment for proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn and don PPE as directed.
4. Clean the area of any splashed acid cleaner. If acid has gotten onto fabrics, books, papers, etc., try to neutralize with baking soda.
5. Make Double Certain That Anyone New Called in to Work on the Drain Knows What Has Taken Place. Wear protective goggles and rubber gloves when auguring drains that have contained acid. If the blockage remains, remove all acid from the drain before attempting to auger again. This may require cutting and draining the line.
6. Limit splashing as much as practical, and cover all damageable items with plastic sheeting prior to auguring acid filled lines.
7. If acid drain cleaner splashes onto skin or in eyes, immediately flush with cold water for 15 minutes; seek medical attention if burning continues. Notify supervisor of accident. Supervisor or co-worker should dial 911 and notify EHS asap.
8. Be aware that acid drain cleaners are very corrosive. On old drain piping or P-Traps like a lot of our buildings have, the acid can eat through the drain causing a serious spill situation especially to occupants below. Porcelain in a cast iron or steel tub or sink can be removed or permanently stained by improper use of drain cleaners. Use caution and review the plumbing system before using.

## TASK OUTLINE

9. Notify EHS and the FM WCC in the event of a drain cleaner spill. Evacuate occupants from the area and secure the area staying there until help arrives.