



DATE: 24/03/2014

ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN



Near Miss due to Blocked Suction Hose on Sewage Bypass Pump



What happened?

On Sunday 16th March at 9:10am, the On Call Supervisor received a call from the float alarm monitoring company advising him that the alarm had activated on the sewage bypass pump on Beachville Road. The supervisor contacted the site foreman who immediately attended site. There had been heavy rain that morning and the foreman found that the suction hose to the pump had blocked with debris and rags. This caused the water levels in the man hole to rise triggering the alarm. The hose was quickly unblocked and the pump restarted before any sewage discharge could occur.

Why did it happen?

Heavy rain that morning had pushed additional rags and debris down the wastewater line causing the blockage.

Actions required

- Continued regular monitoring during the day and overnight, plus the use of the high level overflow alarms, helps prevent these near misses becoming sewage overflows.
- Suction hoses are to be checked regularly, even during dry weather to ensure they do not become blocked.