

Title	SEWER BLOCKAGE-BACKUPS POLICY	POLICY NO:	F-41
Legislation Reference			
<b>Purpose</b> To define the role and responsibilities of the Village of Beiseker in it's response to sewer backups on private property within the municipal boundaries.			

<b>Policy Statement and Guidelines</b>
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**Definitions**

A “building sewer pipe” means the pipe which extends from a structure/building on private property to the curb stop at the property line.

A “village sewer pipe” means the pipe that extends from the curb stop to the main sewer line.

**Area of Responsibility – Blockages**

The Village of Beiseker shall not be responsible for any material (matter or thing) that is deposited into any sewer pipe (building, village or main pipe) by any property owner, resident, or any other person that is not an employee or representative of the Village of Beiseker.

The property owner or resident is responsible for any material (matter or thing) that is deposited into the building sewer pipe that results in a blockage either in the building sewer pipe, village sewer pipe, or the main sewer line.

**Area of Responsibility – Pipe Maintenance**

The property owner or resident shall maintain and keep in good condition, the building sewer pipe and trench bed extending from the structure/building to the property line. The property owner is responsible for any costs associated with damage to the building sewer pipe.

**Area of Responsibility – Sewer Connection (between Building Sewer Pipe and Village Sewer Pipe)**

If there is damage that requires repair or replacement of the connection between the Building Sewer Pipe and the Village Sewer Pipe, each situation will be investigated to determine cause to the extent possible. If it is determined, either through camera, dig, or other means, that the damage was likely caused due to such things as poor installation, tree roots located on the private property or other means that would point to damage occurring from the private property, the CAO, will weigh towards the landowner paying for the cost to repair the connection. If the replacement of the connection occurs because the village pipe is being replaced, corrosion, slippage, etc. either through camera, dig or other means, the CAO will weigh towards the Village paying for costs. The CAO retains the right to cost-share between the village and the landowner when it is reasonable to do so.

**Sewer Backup Complaints**

The Village of Beiseker Public Works Department will respond as soon as reasonably practical to a complaint of a sewer backup.

Once a complaint is received, the Public Works Department will determine the main sewer pipe's rate of flow. A normal rate of flow withing the sewer main indicates that the blockage is likely in the building sewer pipe. An abnormal (or lower) rate of flow, or no flow may indicate that the main sewer pipe is obstructed.

If it is concluded that the main sewer pipe has a normal rate of flow, the property owner or resident will be responsible for determining where the blockage is located. A certified plumber (hired by the property owner or resident) will report to the Public Works Department with verification that the blockage has occurred in the village sewer pipe or main sewer pipe. The verification should be in the form of camera footage when possible.

If the blockage is a result of any material (matter or thing) being disposed of into the sewer system through the building sewer pipe (or directly into the sewer system), the cost of removing the blockage and any other

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repair or damage, including the initial inspection by the certified plumber to verify the location of the blockage, will be the responsibility of the property owner or the person responsible for disposing the material (matter or thing) into the system. This includes any costs incurred by the Village.

If the blockage is in the village sewer pipe or main sewer pipe and is caused by things such as roots and/or a failed pipe or any other cause, the cost of removal of the blockage and any other repair or damage will be paid for by the Village of Beiseker. This will include reimbursement to the property owner or resident for the initial inspection by the certified plumber to verify the location of the blockage.

#### **Liability**

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act of Alberta*, as amended, the Village of Beiseker will neither admit to, nor be held liable for any direct or indirect damage to property as a result of the operation or non-operation of the sewer system.

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>RESOLUTION NUMBER</b>
Approved	June 23 2003	2003-65
Amended	Feb 14 2022	2022-43
Amended	Oct 10 2023	2023-207
Amended	Oct 23 2023	2023-300

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Chief Administrative Officer

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Chief Elected Official

