

Flood water removal

Considerations required before removal of flood water.

Flood water will often contain many contaminants which include Sewage, chemicals and solid waste. It can cause problems to the environment, marine life, wildlife and plants. Special considerations where sites of specific scientific interest are present in the locality or where water may be inadvertently removed to.



Where is the water being removed too, could this effect...

- A Other peoples properties or businesses?
- B Watercourses
- C Wildlife, marine life.
- D Other environment issues.

The removal of floodwater could make a problem worse in some instances where these considerations are not taken into account.

Fire & rescue services should notify the environment agency if untreated sewage is removed and enters a watercourse.

The ideal situation is for foul water to be pumped back into the foul water system, this is often difficult due to that system already overloaded due to local conditions. This may be possible if rainfall is not main contributor to the flood and where a blocked sewer network is likely to be responsible. In instances like that best action is two pump between blockage and rejoin network after blockage. This will illiminate any contamination.

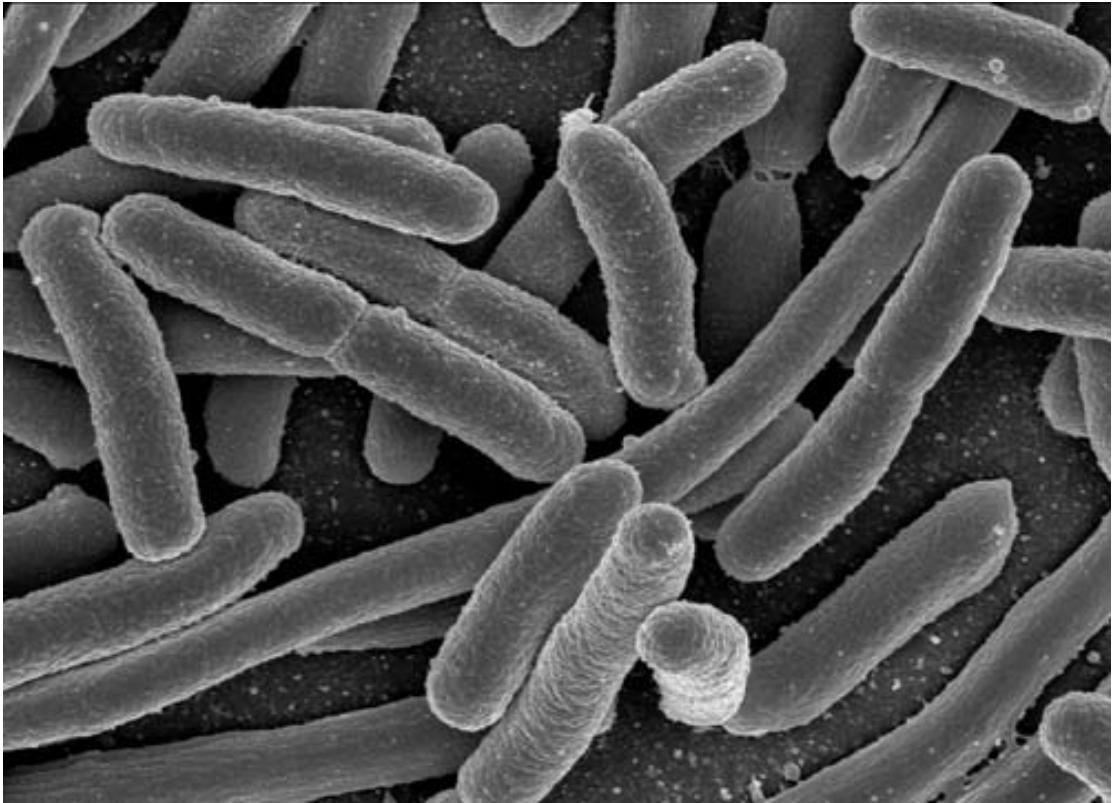
It is prudent to check for an area of land where foul water can be removed to so that it does not enter watercourse directly during rainfall flood events involving sewer contaminants if containment is not an option.

Be aware of SSSI areas. These areas may be damaged beyond repair if pollutants are pumped directly or indirectly into them. Efforts should be made to divert contaminated water from entering SSSI areas and a safe area found for divrted water. SSSI AREAS INCLUDE PLANTS, FORNA, MARINE LIFE , BIRDS, REPTILES, ANIMALS AND INSECTS



Crews having worked in flood water need to be aware of self contamination, and cleaning of work wear. Thorough cleaning and avoidance of cross contamination should be undertaken.

Equipment used is often cleaned post incident and there is again a risk of contamination.



Ecoli through microscope.

Bacteria including ecoli can be found in waste water and can contaminate fire kit and equipment. Cross contamination can occur when this is stored on appliances incorrectly and whilst being cleaned.