

SAFETY ALERT

Am I SAFE?

Assets in Public Areas

Document No: **IW-HSQE-SA-39**

Revision:1.00

Approved By: James Cullen

1. What Happened?

The notification of a recent near miss informed Irish Water of an unusual arrangement at one of our assets whereby a septic tank was located under public toilets close to a beach. The access to the septic tank was via a manhole situated within the toilets and a serious near miss occurred when this manhole had been left uncovered and unprotected while unattended during works at the septic tank. It is possible that similar arrangements exist at assets around the country and it is vital that openings are never left unprotected and to ensure that sufficient segregation between works and the public is in place where they are being carried out at such locations.



Septic tank located under public toilets (Access manhole located behind locked door within the toilets)

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2. Immediate Actions

- Manhole cover reinstated as soon as issue was raised with workers involved.
- Safety conversation held with work crew regarding issue.
- Contractors have been advised that they must close public toilets while undertaking works at this particular asset.

3. Further Actions

- Local Authorities to advise Irish Water of assets with similar arrangements at or in the vicinity of public facilities, the frequency of attendance and of any risk assessments and standard operating procedures that are in place.
- SLA Operations to ensure that OPEX contractors are informed of such assets where required to work at them.
- Likewise, Irish Water Capital Portfolio to ensure that capital portfolio contractors are informed of these assets where required to work on them.
- Contractors must ensure that works are adequately segregated from the public and that hazards such as manhole openings are never left unprotected where there is a risk of public access. Public toilets must be closed to facilitate such works. The relevant department responsible management of the public toilets in each LA must also be notified.

4. Further Information

For further information on this safety alert please contact

hsqe@water.ie

Distribution list

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Internal		
Asset Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Delivery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>
Asset Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All IW staff <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other Please Specify _____		

External		
Local Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DBO <input type="checkbox"/>	Capital Contracts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Relevant Framework Contractors <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
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