

Town of Stoughton

Board of Health

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Food Establishment Emergency Policy for Sewer Outage

Should any Stoughton Board of Health (BOH) licensed food establishment (FE) have a loss of sewer service (backup or overflow of sewage inside or outside the building) the person in charge (PIC) must cease operations and notify the BOH immediately. The FE cannot re-open until such time that an agent of the BOH has given permission to re-open. If the event occurs out of normal hours of the BOH office, a message can be left at the BOH office and the food establishment cannot re-open until contacted and/or visited by a BOH agent, which might not occur until the following day or possibly the next town office business day, if occurring on the weekend or a holiday (excluding a single fixture clog with minor backup that can be easily unclogged and affected area sanitized with bleach immediately).

Some sewage systems rely on pumps (and will typically have audio/visual alarms) to eject sewage from a manhole or tank/chamber up to a sewer main or up to an onsite leaching facility. Pumps and/or related equipment can wear out or malfunction at which time operations would probably need to cease until repairs can be made if system does not have an emergency storage volume (some have a full day's flow) built into pump chamber size and pump settings. Any multi-fixture backup or overflow within the facility (not isolated to single fixture clog) requires immediate shutdown of operations and notification of BOH. FE owners are also encouraged to have emergency contact numbers readily available for pumpers, electricians, etc., to be prepared for septic/sewer issues, which with specific contingency plans might allow a facility to stay open with limited operations for limited periods in accordance with any BOH approved emergency plans specific to their site and particular system.

Please note: every food establishment must have a designated PIC authorized by the business owner to enact emergency closures when applicable, under the above policy, who is onsite working at all times when open for business. Should any business fail to have a designated PIC at all times when open or should any business fail to enact emergency closure procedures under this policy as directed by which when applicable, the FE license can be suspended by a BOH Agent and/or revoked by the Board.

Policy effective date: October 12, 2018