STYRENE AND THE CURED-IN-PLACE PIPE LINING

The Cured-In-Place Pipe Reconstruction Process involves the use of a liquid thermosetting resin that is hardened within the existing pipe to create a new pipe-within-a-pipe. The resin used for this process contains a substance called styrene which causes the resin to polymerize or harden when heated. Styrene has an unpleasant odor which can be detected by humans at concentrations far below any level that could be harmful.

You may smell these styrene fumes while the contractor personnel are working in your area, but do not be alarmed. Humans detect styrene odors at a concentration of approximately 0.1 parts per million (ppm) which is well below the permissible limit of 50 ppm for the work place (8 hours per day, 5 days per week) set by the federal agency OSHA.

It is estimated that on some occasions, the general public may be exposed during an Insituform project to a concentration of styrene vapor of, at the most, a few ppm for a duration of several hours to several days. The most common way for these unpleasant odors to enter your home is through dry basement drain traps that tie to the sewer pipe being Insituformed. Therefore, to reduce your contact with these odors, pour water into your drain just before Insituform is scheduled to be in your area. This is also a good practice on a regular basis to prevent unwanted sewer gasses from entering your home. After the C.I.P.P. is hardened within the existing pipe and the Insituform personnel leave the job site, there are no known health hazards from the material. The C.I.P.P. is constructed from the same type of plastic that is used in the boat industry for the manufacturing of boat hulls.

To summarize, the resins used in the Cured-In-Place Pipe Lining Process contain a substance called styrene with an unpleasant odor that can be detected at very low levels. The concentration of styrene that may be experienced by the general public during a lining project may produce an unpleasant odor, but it is well below any level which could injure you.