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Public Works News Release

New Sewer Camera Sees Grease

To help eliminate spills of sewage, the City of Bishop and the Eastern Sierra Community Services District recently purchased a special video camera system for looking inside public sewer mains. The camera is used to look for problems in sewer pipes that could lead to blockages. Sewer blockages can result in raw sewage overflowing onto the ground, or into houses and businesses, which is why crews work hard to eliminate them.

Sewer problems Bishop Public Works crews see with the new camera that can lead to blocked sewer mains include broken pipes, tree roots, obstructions, and grease. Public Works can deal with all of these problems once they find them with the camera but need help dealing with the grossest of them all – large quantities of smelly, slimy grease.

When even small amounts of grease, fat, or oil washes down the drain into the sewers, it mixes with relatively cool sewage. As the grease cools in congeals onto the walls of the sewer pipes and, over time, can accumulate to the point it blocks the pipe. A sewer pipe blocked by congealed grease is a lot like a person's artery being plugged with plaque. Also sort of like a person, the best way to eliminate the problems grease causes in the sewer is to keep the grease out of the drain to begin with. The City of Bishop has been working to inform its sewer customers of the problem that grease creates and working with them to reduce grease.

Before the new camera, it wasn't possible to precisely locate the sources of grease. But now the new sewer camera shows quite clearly where the grease that causes sewer problems is coming from. As the sources of grease are found, the responsible owners and residents will be contacted and asked to reduce the grease they put into the sewer. Fats, oil, and grease shouldn't be disposed of down the drain. Put it in a sealed container and dispose of it properly in the trash.

For more information contact City of Bishop Public Works at publicworks@ca-bishop.us or 760-873-8458. Press releases posted at <http://www.ca-bishop.us/Advertisements/Releases/Releases.htm>