Alberta Health Services
Human Resources

AHS cares

# Environmental Odours & Scents

## Worker Responsibilities

If an environmental odour or a scent is disruptive to you or your work environment please follow the process below. This flowchart refers to all odour and scent issues involving workers, patients, visitors etc. that may impact our workers.

**Identify if this is an environmental odour or scent.**

**Environmental Odours**
Originate from work-related industrial, mechanical or chemical sources in the work environment and may cause irritation and/or sensitivity to some workers. E.g. Vehicle exhaust, chemicals, roofing asphalt, sewer gas, musty and unknown odours etc.

**Take Action:**
- Move away from the affected area if necessary.
- Assess the area for hazards and if safe to do so attempt to resolve the concern at the source of the odour.
- Initiate emergency response plan as necessary

Tell your manager/supervisor immediately of the concern

Report within MySafetyNet before you leave as one of the following:
- Hazard/near miss/observation (no injury)
- Work related injury or illness

Work with your manager/supervisor to resolve the concern.

**Scents**
Originate from sources that are not due to any work-related tasks. They are present in the work environment as a result of the actions of a person and may cause irritation and/or sensitivity to some workers. E.g. Perfume, cologne, personal hygiene, scented products, food., etc.

**Take Action:**
- Move away from the affected area if necessary.
- Attempt to resolve the concern with person/ people involved.

Was the concern resolved?

yes

No further action is required.
You still have the option to report the incident within MySafetyNet.
If unsure whether or not to report connect with your manager/supervisor.

no

Tell your manager/supervisor immediately of the concern. If unable to discuss with your manager/supervisor see the Environmental Odours and Scents Guideline.

Report within MySafetyNet before you leave as one of the following:
- Hazard/near miss/ observation (no injury)
- Work related injury or illness

Work with your manager/ supervisor to resolve the concern.