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**Facilities Management**  
**Preventing Odors from Dry Sink Traps Standard Operating Procedures**

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SOP #:	EHS-017	Revision: 1
Dept:	Environmental Health and Safety	Date: 03/11/19
Approval:		Date: 03/11/19

## 1. PURPOSE

CSU-Pueblo is actively concerned with the safety of all faculty, staff, students and guests on the CSU-Pueblo campus. Safety can only be effectively achieved with the cooperation of the entire campus community. This guideline is established to enhance the safety and health of faculty, staff, students, and visitors, and to reduce risk and disruptions to living, learning, and working environments at the University.

## 2. RESPONSIBILITIES

2.A. Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) will be responsible for:

2.A.1. Assisting the Disability Resource and Support Center and the office of Residence Life & Housing with assistance animal accommodations.

2.B. All CSU-Pueblo Supervisors will be responsible for:

2.B.1. Utilizing this Standard Operating Procedure to guide building safety decisions.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

3.A. SINK TRAP – A plumbing device that uses a bending path to retain water to create a seal to prevent sewer gases from entering buildings, while allowing waste to pass through.

## 4. PROCEDURES

4.A. Unusual odors are often reported in work areas and campus buildings. Typically odors are described as “sulfur-like” or sewer gas, mercaptan, or hydrogen sulfide odors. If the smell is localized and appears to be unrelated to the ventilation system, it frequently can be traced to a dry sink trap or unused floor drain.

4.B. Drain traps, normally filled with water, create a seal between the building’s sanitary sewer line and the system designated to ventilate the sewer gas. Without the water in a drain trap, sewer gas is drawn into the room.

4.C. This can be prevented by running or pouring water into the drains regularly, at least once a week.

4.D. The illegal practice of pouring hazardous chemicals into sinks and drains can also contribute to problem odors. Dispose of all chemicals properly to avoid this.