

Dear Resident or Property Owner:

This letter is to notify you that your municipality will be smoke testing sewer lines in this area on about [insert date]. This test involves blowing smoke into the sanitary sewer lines to check for leaks, breaks and defects in the system. This smoke testing procedure has been recommended by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as an effective means of identifying problem areas in the sewer system, and is part of your city's continued effort to provide a safe, economical, efficient, and environmentally sound sewer system. Eliminating system defects and improper connections will help your community remain in compliance with federal legislation regarding sewer systems maintenance and sanitary sewer overflows.

The smoke used for this test is manufactured for this purpose, **leaves no residuals or stains**, and **is not harmful to plants and animals**. The smoke is non-toxic and creates no fire hazard. It should not enter your home or business **unless you have defective plumbing or dry sink traps or floor drains**. In this case, defective plumbing could be allowing sewer gases to enter your home, which is a potential health hazard. Corrections of such defects on private property are the responsibility of the property owner, and a licensed plumber should be consulted to ensure the proper corrections are made. The presence of smoke in your house should be reported immediately to the personnel conducting the tests, or by calling (insert telephone number).

Though the smoke is harmless, direct contact may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people, so you should avoid prolonged or unnecessary exposure if possible. If smoke does enter your home, try to see where it is coming from inside your home, and then contact the smoke testing work crews immediately. Open doors and windows to ventilate the building and remove any people and pets to fresh air until the smoke is cleared. Any smoke irritation will be temporary and should quickly disappear after exposure has ceased. Persons with heart and respiratory ailments should leave the house during the test. Be sure any unattended pets are provided with proper ventilation.

Some sewer lines and manholes are located along backyard or side yard easements. If these lines require investigation, members of the inspection crew may need to enter your property to access sewer lines and manholes. Homeowners do not need to be present and workers will not enter your home or disturb your property.

Smoke that you will see coming from the vent stacks on houses is normal. However, smoke coming from holes in the grounds is not normal and is considered a defect. All such defects will be photographed and logged.

It is normal to see lots of white/grey smoke around your neighborhood during smoke testing. Do not be alarmed by this smoke, and do not call the Fire Department unless you see black smoke or have good reason to believe there is an actual fire to report.

In advance of the testing date:

- Please pour one gallon of water into all seldom used drains, including floor drains, and flush all toilets. This will prevent smoke from entering your house through working plumbing connections.
- Notify _____ if there is any individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems and is immobile.

Signed _____