

Smoke testing is a way to find sections of sanitary sewer lines that have cracks, leaks or faulty connections that allow rainwater into the sanitary sewers. The addition of this extra flow during storm events can overload lines, pumping stations, and ultimately the wastewater treatment plant, leading to sanitary sewer overflows, back-ups, or poor treatment efficiency at the plant.

During the test, City crews will send white smoke designed for this type of testing into the sanitary sewer system by blowing it into a manhole. It is then forced out through lines and cracks, openings, or plumbing vents on or near roof tops. The smoke is safe, odorless, non-toxic and non-staining.

If home plumbing systems are correctly installed and well-vented with working water traps, smoke should not enter the home. **Residents are advised to flush all toilets and run approximately one pint of water down sink drains to ensure water traps are full.**

Testing may be of service to you, as a homeowner. If smoke enters your home, it will make you aware of deficiencies in your plumbing system. If smoke enters your home, please call 931-520-5239. Opening windows will help ventilate the smoke from the house. If you have indoor pets and you will not be home on testing days, you may want to consider leaving windows open. No smoke testing will occur on days with heavy rainfall.

If you have a family member with respiratory problems or someone who could become con-fused, please advise us by contacting 931-520-5239 prior to the schedule testing in your area.

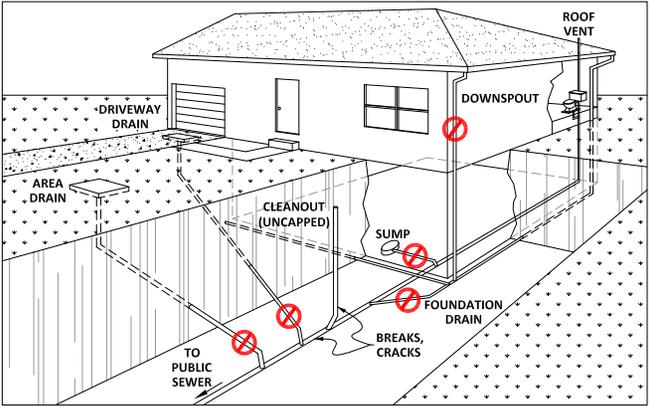
Your area will be smoke tested

from _____

through _____

Remember ...

- This smoke is non-toxic.
- Run one pint of water through drains so that water traps are full. If smoke enters your home, it is an indication that you have a plumbing defect or dried-up drain traps.
- Call **931-520-5239** if smoke enters your home or if you have any questions. If you have any doubt about the origin of the smoke, call 911.
- Consider leaving windows open if you have indoor pets and will not be home at the time of testing.



Typical Private Service Defects

Smoke Testing Program

November 2023

