



The City of Watervliet will be conducting Smoke Testing of sewer lines in select areas within the City on the following dates:

- July 18th, 2023
- July 19th, 2023
- July 25th, 2023 – Reserved as a rain date only
- July 26th, 2023 – Reserved as a rain date only

A Smoke Test is the industry standard test for identifying breaks in sanitary lines or manholes, cross connections from the stormwater system to the sanitary system, connected roof and floor drains, or connected sump pumps, to name a few.

This test involves using high-capacity blowers to blow non-toxic smoke into the sanitary sewer lines. The blower is placed on top of a manhole, forcing smoke into the sewer. Any area where smoke is observed exiting the system is a location where storm water could enter the sanitary system. The goal of the test is to quantify and characterize the sources of stormwater entering the sanitary system. Gaining an understanding of the amount of stormwater entering the sanitary system will provide insight and guidance to the City's decision making while considering collection system improvements.

The smoke used for this test is manufactured for this purpose and is non-toxic and creates no fire hazard. The smoke leaves no residuals or stains and is not harmful to plants or animals.

IN ADVANCE OF THE TESTING DATE:

- Please pour 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.

The smoke should not enter your home or business unless you have defective plumbing (such as a defective or missing sump pump check valve), 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.

Homeowners do not need to be present during the test, and field crew will not enter your home or disturb your property.

During the smoke test, field crew will be walking in the neighborhood documenting locations of smoke exiting the sanitary system. It is normal to see smoke coming from the roof drains and vent stacks on top of houses. It is also possible to see smoke coming from holes in the ground indicating a defect in the sanitary pipe. The local field crew will be documenting all sources of smoke. It is normal to see white or gray smoke around your neighborhood during the smoke test. Do not be alarmed. The Fire Department

had been notified and is aware of the testing in your neighborhood. There is no need to call the Fire Department unless you see black smoke or have reason to believe there is an actual fire.

Should you detect the presence of smoke in your house or on your property you are asked to kindly report it either directly to the on-site field crew conducting the test, or by scanning the QR code below and completing the reporting survey.



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. 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.

Thank you for your cooperation. Any questions may be directed to:

Alan Smaka, PE
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(574) 360-6638

Debbie Gibson
OHM-Senior Field Technician
(734) 323-4114