Sanitary Sewer Smoke Testing

JULY / AUGUST - 2012

WHAT IS SMOKE TESTING?
Smoke testing involves blowing smoke through the sanitary sewers to locate deficiencies in the system. You may see smoke coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground. The smoke varies in color from white to gray. It is NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING, HAS NO ODOR, AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD. The smoke should not enter your home or business unless the plumbing is not functioning properly.

WHO IS DOING THE TESTING?
Smoke testing was authorized by the City, and will be conducted by Orchard Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. (OHM) and Foth, LLC. Crews will usually be nearby a testing area with marked vehicles and will have identification.

HOW WILL I KNOW WHEN TESTING IS TO BE DONE IN MY AREA?
Notification of smoke testing will be made directly to homes and businesses. The smoke testing does depend on weather conditions, so we will do our best to give timely notice.

HOW WILL IT AFFECT MY HOME OR BUSINESS?
The testing should not affect your home or business, or your sanitary sewer service. You do not need to be present during the testing. When you receive notice that testing will be in your area, PLEASE pour water down ALL the drains in your home, especially seldom used drains and floor drains in your basement, slab floors, and garages. Smoke could enter your home through drains if the trap is not filled. If you have a smoke alarm that automatically calls the fire department, this is particularly important to prevent unnecessary emergency calls.

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION AND/OR A PROBLEM?
If there is an immediate problem or concern, speak to one of the field crew members conducting the testing in your area. If you have further problems, please contact the following:

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