## Smoke Testing FAQ

## What is smoke testing?

Smoke testing is a method used by municipalities to identify leaks, cracks, or illegal connections in the sanitary sewer system. A non-toxic, odorless smoke is blown into the storm system lines, and Utilities Operators observe where the smoke exits to detect issues.

## Why is smoke testing necessary?

Smoke testing helps:

* Locate broken or cracked pipes.
* Detect illegal connections.
* Improve system efficiency and reduce maintenance costs.

## Is the smoke harmful?

No. The smoke used is:

* Non-toxic
* Non-staining
* Harmless to humans, pets, plants, and household items
* Dissipates quickly and leaves no residue

## Will the smoke enter my home or business?

Smoke should not enter buildings if plumbing is properly installed and maintained. However, smoke may enter through:

* Dry or defective plumbing traps
* Cracked pipes
* Improperly sealed connections

If smoke does enter your building, ventilate the area by opening windows and doors.

What should I do to prepare?

* Pour water into all drains, especially those not used frequently (e.g., basement floor drains), to ensure traps are filled.
* Notify the testing crew if you have individuals with respiratory conditions or other health concerns.
* Keep pets indoors during testing if they may be alarmed by the smoke.

How will I know when testing is happening?

The District will notify residents in advance via:

* Door notices
* Social Media
* Community websites or newsletters

Testing typically occurs during daylight hours and lasts a few hours in each area.

## What should I do if I see smoke?

If you see smoke coming from your yard, roof vents, or manholes, it’s normal. If smoke enters your home:

* Open windows and doors for ventilation.
* Contact the testing crew or municipal office to report the issue.

Who conducts the testing?

Smoke testing is performed by the District’s Utilities Operators

## Who can I contact with questions or concerns?

Contact your local Public Works Department or the number provided in the smoke testing notice for more information at 250.949.7779