

# SMOKE TESTING

## FOR SANITARY SEWERS

### SMOKE TESTING

Smoke testing is a method to find ways that groundwater and stormwater are entering the sanitary sewer system. When too much groundwater and stormwater enter the sanitary sewer system during wet weather, it can overwhelm the system, causing basement backups and sanitary sewer overflows.

### HOW IT WORKS

During smoke testing, field crews blow air and mist into the sanitary sewer system in the street and monitor where mist escapes the system. The mist will fill the main line as well as any connections and then follow the path of any leak to the ground surface, quickly revealing the source of the problem. For instance, if mist permeates up through a yard, it indicates breaks in the sewer line or a connected storm drain.

You may see what looks like smoke coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground. If the mist enters your home, it may make you cough, but the mist is:

- Non-toxic
- Non-staining and odorless
- Harmless to humans, pets, plants, food and material goods
- Creates no fire hazard

### FILL DRAIN TRAPS AND CLOSE OFF OPEN PLUMBING CONNECTIONS

Homeowners or business owners do not need to be present during the investigation, which will be conducted during normal business hours. Workers will not be inside your home.

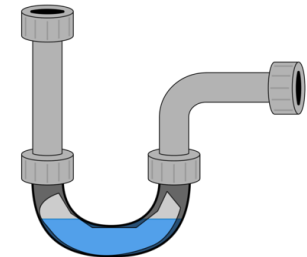
However, you must **POUR WATER DOWN SELDOM USED DRAINS PRIOR TO THE TESTING**; especially floor drains in your home or business. This should prevent smoke from entering your home and setting off smoke alarms unnecessarily.

Please block off any open plumbing connections with duct tape or plastic.

Several days before smoke testing begins in your neighborhood, crews will hang notices on doors.



Field crews blow a non-toxic mist into the sanitary sewer system. The mist travels through the sewer lines, revealing problems in the system.



Run water in all seldom-used drains prior to smoke testing. The water acts as a barrier, preventing sewer gases from entering your home or business.

