



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS
906 EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD
CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320

NOTICE!

TO: CITY OF CHESAPEAKE RESIDENTS

SUBJECT: Smoke Testing and Sanitary Sewer Survey

The City of Chesapeake Public Utilities (PU) has retained Hydrostructures, A Duke's Company to perform physical inspections of the sanitary sewer system in your area. These inspections will involve the opening of manholes in the streets and easements. An important task of the inspections will be the SMOKE TESTING of the sanitary sewer lines to locate defects in the sanitary sewer system. This will involve blowing HARMLESS smoke into the sanitary system, to locate where unwanted storm water may be entering. Hydrostructures will be working in your neighborhood for the next seven (7) days. If significant rainfall is experienced during the seven (7) day period smoke testing operations may need to be rescheduled. If the schedule is modified additional notification will be provided. If you have any questions regarding smoke testing in your area, please contact either of the individuals listed below.

As a result of the testing, smoke may be seen coming from the roof vent stacks on houses, building foundations, manhole covers, storm inlets or holes in the ground. The smoke is **NON-TOXIC, CLEAN, HARMLESS TO HUMANS, PETS, FOOD AND MATERIAL GOODS, and CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD.** Persons with severe asthma should avoid breathing any smoke to avoid irritation. The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried-up drain traps. If you have any seldom used drains, please pour water in the drain to fill the trap. This will prevent sanitary sewer gases or odors and smoke from entering the building. Should smoke enter your home, open the windows and if it persists, you may contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in the area and someone will assist you in determining where and why the smoke has entered your home/building. The smoke will clear within a few minutes with proper ventilation.

Your presence at home is not required during the testing. All public safety authorities have been notified. We would appreciate it if you would share this information with your neighbors to raise awareness of this activity. Some common questions are answered on the reverse side of this notice. Should you have any questions or concerns during smoke testing and sanitary sewer inspection, please contact:

Hydrostructures PM: Uthappa Mandepanda at 757-631-7989.
Chesapeake PM: Milan Patel at (757) 382-3417

Sincerely yours,

Milan Patel, Project Manager

1. Is the smoke harmful?

No. It may make you cough, but it is not harmful to your health and will not harm clothing, drapes, or furniture.

2. What should I do if smoke gets into the house?

If smoke enters your home or business during testing, open windows to allow ventilation and note the location of the smoke. Smoke will clear within a few minutes. Contact Hydrostructures Project Manager: Uthappa Mandepanda (757)-631-7989 or City of Chesapeake Public Utilities Project Manager: Milan Patel at (757) 382-3417

3. What is the purpose of smoke testing?

Smoke testing is used to find possible leaks in the sanitary sewer system. When you receive notice that smoke testing will take place, you should check to see that all drain traps under basins, washing facilities and floor drains have water in them. To do so, simply flush toilets and run water into all drains.

4. I will not be home during smoke testing and have pets in the house. What should I do?

The smoke is not harmful to pets. It would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, should any smoke enter the building. If you have proper plumbing connections and all of the drain traps have water in them, there should not be any problems.

5. If smoke gets into the house, how long does it take to dissipate?

This will depend upon how much smoke enters the building and how much ventilation you can provide.

6. Can smoke stop up the sanitary sewer?

No. The smoke is made of a vaporous substance.

7. What happens if the city finds a bad sanitary sewer connection or missing traps are found in a home/building?

This information will be documented by Hydrostructures and given to the Public Utilities Engineering Division for review.

8. Will rodents be smoked out?

No, but the smoke will detect where rodents have access.