



SMOKE TEST NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

Field crews from Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority will conduct Smoke Testing in The Plains from January through March of 2017. These crews blow white smoke into the sewer lines and manholes in order to locate sections of the sanitary sewers that have cracks, leaks or faulty connections that need repair. The smoke will exit through holes in manhole covers, plumbing vent pipes on the roofs of houses and other locations where rain water can get into the sewer system.

The smoke is **non-toxic, leaves no residue, and creates no fire hazard**. The smoke will not enter your house unless there are defective plumbing present, missing or broken cleanout caps, or the drain traps are dry. To help prevent smoke from entering your house, please pour about a gallon of water into any seldom used drain. Doing this will fill the drain traps and prevent smoke from entering your home.

At no time will the field crews need to enter your house and you do not need to be at home during the test. Field crews will distribute a notice door to door approximately 24 to 48 hours in advance. Police, Fire, and The Plains officials will also be notified daily of the work area.



SOME COMMON QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

1. Is the smoke safe?

Yes. The “smoke” is not true smoke, but rather a mist containing a large percentage of atmospheric moisture that is highly visible at low concentrations. If you detect smoke in your premises, **DO NOT BE ALARMED**. The smoke is odorless, non-toxic and non-staining. It will not harm your health and will disappear rapidly without leaving a residue. The smoke is harmless to humans, pets, food, and material goods. Since any vapor can be an irritant, direct contact with the “smoke” may cause minor respiratory irritation in some people. Individuals with respiratory

problems such as chronic asthma, emphysema, or other respiratory conditions should avoid direct exposure to the smoke. If you have any concerns because of an adverse breathing condition please contact us prior to testing.

2. What do you do if the smoke gets into your house/business?

Call 911 immediately if you are not certain that the smoke is a result of the Authority's testing.

Local fire personnel are aware of our testing and will be able to tell you the difference between smoke from the testing and smoke that could result from fire unrelated to the testing.

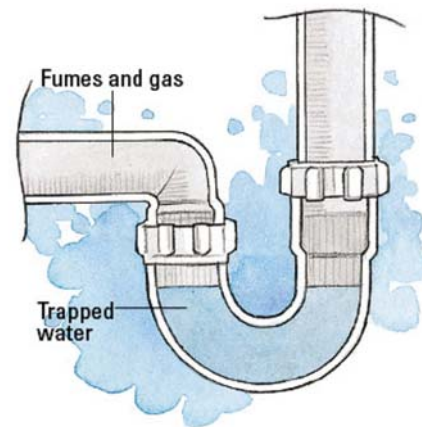
Otherwise open a door or window for ventilation and contact the crew working in the area.

3. What is the purpose of smoke testing?

Smoke testing is used to locate sections of the sanitary sewers that have cracks, leaks or faulty connections that allow rain water to enter the sanitary sewer system. Smoke testing is the most efficient and cost effective way to locate and identify where unauthorized water is entering the public portion of the sewer system, which is costing wastewater treatment facilities millions of dollars.

4. Will smoke testing of the sewers allow smoke to get into my home?

No, provided that your plumbing is installed and functioning properly, and provided "traps" are filled with water. Drains that are used frequently should be okay. If you are not sure, simply run water down the drain for a minute to ensure that the trap is not dry. It is important to locate dry traps as they could allow sewer gases to enter the home. Dry traps are most commonly found in basement floor drains that are used only during rare flood events or in unused fixtures. Please thoroughly check your home.



5. If smoke does get into house/business, how long does it take for the smoke to dissipate?

This will depend on how much smoke enters the building and how much ventilation you can provide. Opening windows and ventilating normally clears smoke within a few minutes.

6. How will I know if smoke enters my house if I am not home during testing?

The purpose of the smoke test is to identify sources of unauthorized water entering the public portion of the sewer system. While it is also beneficial to note deficient plumbing connections on private property, this is not the main intent of the smoke test. It is the homeowner's responsibility to maintain private plumbing connections.

7. How long will testing take?

While crews might be in your area for a few hours, each actual smoke test takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Most houses will only be within the testing area for one or two tests.

8. Can smoke stop up the sewers?

No. The smoke is vaporous.

9. What happens if you find a faulty sewer or lack of traps in a building?

This information will be documented and will be used to determine what steps are necessary to remedy the problem.

10. Why can't you tell me in advance exactly what date my home will be tested?

This testing cannot be conducted during rainy periods or very windy conditions, so it can sometimes be delayed due to weather conditions. Furthermore, the testing cannot be performed when day temperatures are below freezing and the smoke can be confused with other water vapors generated from buildings or underground utilities. Also, other activities in the project may take less time than anticipated, so it can sometimes be sooner than expected. The schedule may also shift if more or fewer defects than expected are located and need to be documented. Crews will distribute door hanger notices to each building in each test area approximately 24 to 48 hours before the test.

11. Can smoke testing activate the smoke alarms?

Yes, smoke alarms may be activated during smoke testing. If possible, open windows and/or doors for ventilation. If you have any doubts about the origin of the smoke, please call 911.

12. Where does smoke appear?

Smoke may be seen coming from roof vents, building foundations, manhole covers or yard cleanouts. Smoke coming from roof vents on the roof of homes is a normal occurrence and indicates to the crews that smoke has filled all sewers.



Thank you for your cooperation in this effort to provide you with quality sanitary sewer service. Should you have any additional questions, please contact: Michael Edelen with the Fauquier County Water and Sanitation Authority at 540-349-2092 during business hours. After business hours, you can contact emergency services at the same number by following the prompts on the automated phone menu.