

NOTICE

Smoke Testing Sewer Lines

The *City of Gallipolis* is conducting a smoke test of its sanitary sewer system.

Work crews will smoke test the sewer system at various areas of the City. A "SMOKE TEST" survey will assist the city in identifying defects in our sewer system. The smoke you see coming from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is **NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING, ODORLESS, WHITE TO GRAY IN COLOR AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD.**

The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps.

It is advisable for the home owner to pour a gallon of water into each drain trap of floors, sinks, showers, and tubs prior to testing. If smoke enters your home there is a good reason to assume that sewer gases may also be entering your home or business. If you are not home and discover smoke when you return, please call us at 740-446-1789.

Important! If there is any individual in your home or business who has respiratory problems, we recommend that the individual leave the home or business prior to testing.

SMOKE TESTING SEWER LINES

What is the benefit to the city for performing a Smoke Test?

Smoke Testing is used to identify sections of sewers which may exhibit inflow during rainfall. Inflow sources are roof leaders, cellars, yard and area drains, foundation drains, abandoned building sewers, faulty connections, illegal connections, and storm water drainage cross connections. It can also detect structural damages and leaking joints in sewer pipes and overflow points in sewer systems.

What exactly is a Smoke Test?

A two/three man crew places a smoke blower over manholes and smoke is blown through the sewer system. Anywhere the smoke exits, there is a potential for storm water to enter the sewer system.

How will residents know when Smoke Testing will be performed in their neighborhoods?

"NotifyNOW" will be used to notify the residents of the test location and dates by telephone, email, and text message. You can play the message again if you did not hear it the first time by calling 1-800-747-6132.

How are smoke test crews recognizable in the field?

All field personnel will have a high visibility shirt or safety vest on.

Is the smoke hazardous?

NO! The smoke that comes out of the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is non-toxic, harmless, and has no odor. It does not create a fire hazard.

Do residents have to do anything to prepare their homes for Smoke Testing?

One gallon of water should be poured into the drain traps of floors, sinks, showers, and tubs to prevent sewer gases from entering the building to prevent smoke from entering the home. If smoke does enter, the resident should consult a licensed plumber. If harmless smoke can enter through faulty plumbing, the potential exists for dangerous sewer gases to also enter the home.

What if smoke comes out of the resident's yard or driveway?

This could mean that there is a drain on the property which is connected to the house sewer line instead of the storm system. It could also mean that there is not direct connection, but that the lateral has breaks or cracks in the pipe that drain runoff after it has entered the soil.

If there is smoke in the resident's yard, does that mean the cause of the leak needs to be dug up?

In a worst-case scenario, yes, but there are many other solutions, such as disconnecting the drain or lining a portion of the house lateral without excavation.

Does the resident need to be home when the Smoke Testing is performed?

Homeowners do not need to be home and field crews will not need to enter the residence. Field crews will record the testing, taking photos and measuring distances so the defects can be located.