

Smoke Testing Fact Sheet

What is smoke testing?

1 Smoke testing is used to locate sections of the sanitary sewers that have cracks, leaks or faulty connections that allow rain water in the sanitary sewer system. **2** During the test, workers send white smoke into the sewer system. **3** The smoke will come out through holes in manhole covers, plumbing vent pipes and other locations where rain water can get into the sewer system. Each test is approximately 30 minutes long.

Why is the testing being done?

The Minneapolis sewer system was originally designed to carry rain water and sewage in a single pipe network. When the City began treating sewage in the 1930s combined sewer overflow (CSO) structures were built at the Mississippi River. During large rainfall events these structures allow combined sewage/rain water to discharge into the river instead of backing up into basements. CSO is regulated by the federal government under the Clean Water Act. Although the City has significantly reduced the occurrence of CSO, more progress is needed to comply with the Clean Water Act, avoid potential fines from the federal government or additional charges for treating peak flows at the Metropolitan Council Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Is the smoke safe?

Yes. If you detect smoke in your premises, **DO NOT BE ALARMED. The smoke is ODORLESS, NON-TOXIC AND NON-STAINING.** It will dissipate quickly and does not leave a residue. A material safety data sheet (MSDS) for the smoke product used is available on the project web page and can be mailed or emailed to you upon request. **Concentrated amounts of the smoke may aggravate a lung or respiratory condition.** The City recommends that people or pets with respiratory conditions are away during the testing. Call **612-673-3543** for special notification if this affects you.

What should I do to prepare?

Smoke could enter your home or building if there is a dry trap in your basement floor drain, unused plumbing fixture(s), missing or broken cleanout caps, or defective plumbing that needs repair. **Pour water down your basement drain or unused plumbing fixture(s) to ensure that the drain trap will be effective** – run the water through these fixtures for approximately one minute. You may also want to open windows the day of the test for additional ventilation. Crews will distribute door hanger notices to each building in each test area the day before the test. Call **612-673-3543** if you operate a daycare, nursing home or other large facility in the test area or require special notification for any reason.

What should I do if I detect smoke?

Call 911 if you are not certain that the smoke is a result of the City'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 a fire unrelated to the testing. Otherwise open a door or window for ventilation and then call one of the numbers in the notice to report the smoke. The City's field crew leaders are available to assist you with venting areas where smoke has gotten into a building and identifying possible sources of smoke or plumbing problems.

Will I be charged for this work?

Testing is funded by the sewer utility fees paid by all residents and businesses in the city. You will not be charged additional fees for this work.

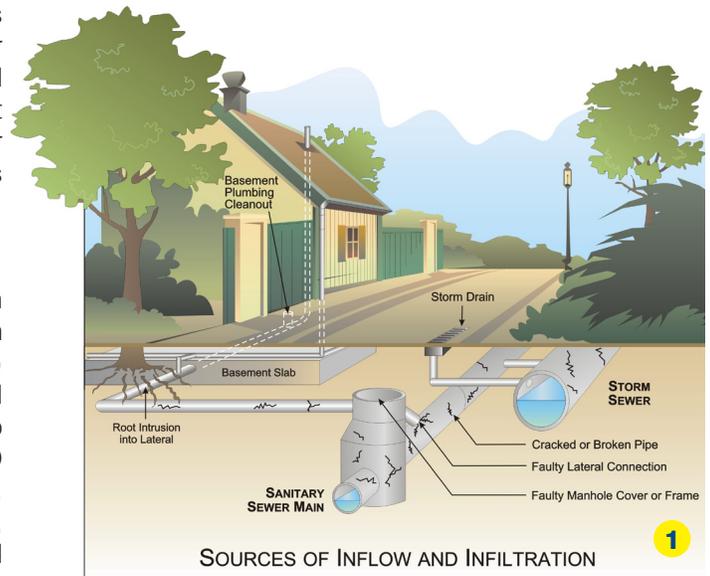
Where can I get more information?

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/smoke1/>

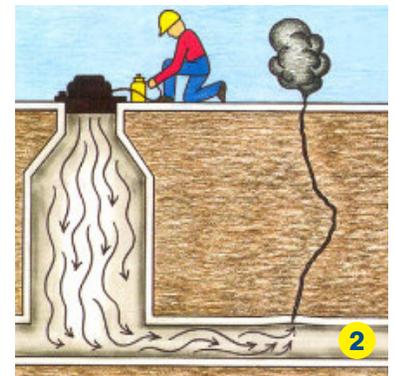
Main Contact - Mark Soderberg 612-673-3543

Field Testing Manager - Arvella Greenway 612-685-8490

Project Engineer - Kelly MacIntyre 612-673-3626



SOURCES OF INFLOW AND INFILTRATION





Minneapolis **Surface Water & Sewers**

309 2nd Avenue South – Room 301
Minneapolis, MN 55401

A smoke test will be performed on your street in late summer or fall.
Questions?? Read inside.

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Minneapolis MN

Permit no. 2140

Thank you for your cooperation in this effort to provide you with quality sanitary sewer service.

A smoke test will be performed on your street in late summer or fall.



Call 311 or visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Minneapolis **Surface Water & Sewers**

visit our website at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/smoke1>.

Read the inside of this mailing, call **612-673-3543**,

Have more questions??

If you have these or any other concerns, please contact Mark Soderberg, Minneapolis Public Works, **612-673-3543**.

IMPORTANT: If someone has a lung ailment or respiratory condition, concentrated amounts of the smoke may aggravate the condition.

Smoke testing is used to locate sections of the sanitary sewers that have cracks, leaks or faulty connections that need repair.

What is a smoke test?

SMOKE TEST NOTICE