

SEWER SMOKE TESTING TAKING PLACE

City crews are preparing to smoke test sanitary sewer lines in your neighborhood. Crews will release a nontoxic smoke into the sewers, and the smoke will show leaks, breaks or faulty connections in the lines.

Breaks or faulty connections can allow rainwater into the sanitary sewer system, which can overflow it in a significant storm. Finding and sealing breaks helps us reduce the likelihood of overflows. Also, reducing rainwater in the sanitary sewer system reduces the amount of sewage treated, which saves all of us money.

The City is planning to use drones in some areas to help improve the safety for crews and reduce coordination time with property owners for this year's smoking testing.

The drones will be flown on blocks that have commercial buildings and apartments with flat roofs. The drone pilot will launch, operate and land from the public right-of-way to avoid any use of private property. The drones will take photos of roof drains and roof vents. The pictures will be used to determine if roof drains are properly situated and plumbed.

The drones will be operated by a licensed pilot and follow Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules for commercial drone use.



PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR THE TEST

Smoke from the test could enter your home through floor drains and unused toilets, sinks or showers. While all drains have water traps to prevent fumes from entering homes, floor drains in basements or in garages can dry up. Make sure the drains in your residence have water in them so they can prevent smoke from entering. Pour a bucket of water down floor, sink or shower drains or down any toilets that haven't been used in a month.

Many apartment buildings have a basement common area for laundry or storage. If you are in an apartment, pour water down laundry tub or floor drains in these common areas.

THE SMOKE IS NONTOXIC

The smoke used in the test is nontoxic and won't stain curtains or any other fabric. However, the smoke may cause some coughing and can be an irritant to people or pets with respiratory conditions. The City recommends that people with these types of health concerns stay away during testing.

Call 612-673-3254 for a special notification if:

- You or someone in your home has mobility limitations, respiratory conditions or other health concerns that may be aggravated by exposure to the smoke.
- There is a daycare or nursing home operated on your property.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Go to www.minneapolismn.gov/smoke-testing/ or call 612-673-3254.