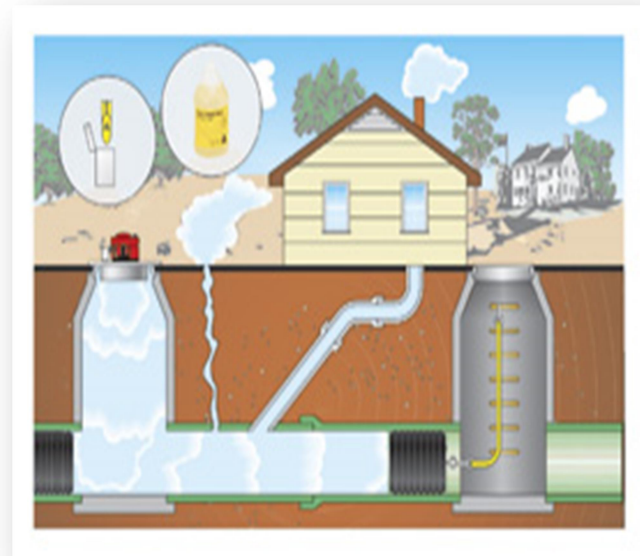




SMOKE TESTING

What is smoke testing and why is it conducted?

Smoke testing is one of the most efficient and cost effective methods of locating sources of inflow and infiltration in sewers. The non-toxic "smoke" will help locate places where storm and other surface waters enter the sanitary sewers. It is conducted by placing a blower over a centrally located manhole and forcing non-toxic smoke-filled air through a sewer line. The smoke under pressure will fill the main line plus any connections, then follow the path of any leaks to the ground's surface, quickly revealing the source of inflow and infiltration (I&I). I&I occurs when groundwater or rainwater enters the sewer lines through cracks, breaks, and/or areas not intended to drain to the sewer system, which robs the pipes of needed capacity and causes overflows and flooding. The smoke will be noticeable wherever there is a leak in a sanitary sewer pipe, such as a crack in a sewer pipe, a cross-connection between a storm sewer and a sanitary sewer, where a roof drain is connected to the sanitary sewer, from a broken cleanout cap, or from a defective or damaged manhole.





Is the smoke harmful?

No. The smoke is specially manufactured for testing and is not dangerous or toxic; it leaves no residue or stains, and should not affect plants or pets. Visible smoke and/or smoke odor will last only a few minutes in cases of proper ventilation. In the unlikely event that citizens come in direct contact with the smoke, there is a slight possibility for minor respiratory passage irritation



What if smoke enters the house or building?

The smoke has a very distinctive, but not unpleasant, odor. During testing, do not be concerned if you see smoke coming from your rooftop sewer vents. This is normal. Smoke should exit the vent stacks of the surrounding properties within the testing area. If traces of smoke or its odor are detected in your building or home, it is an indication that gases from the sewer system could also be entering. Sewer gases can be dangerous, and some of these gases have no odor or color, and can enter a building undetected. If you observe smoke in your building during testing MSD urges you to contact your plumber to have him try to locate the source of the leak that you have witnessed and take the appropriate corrective measures. Location, identification, and correction of the source of smoke that enters your building should quickly be addressed.





Can smoke block the sewer?

No. Depending on the equipment being used, the smoke will be generated by utilizing liquid smoke. The smoke is a vaporous substance and cannot clog a sewer pipe.



How will I know when and if smoke testing is being conducted in my area?

The residents of the affected area will receive notices prior to testing. Contact numbers will be provided if you should have any questions or concerns.



What should I do to prepare for smoke testing?

To avoid smoke from unnecessarily entering your building, we suggest you run water into all of your drains for 5 minutes, the night prior to the date that smoke testing will be conducted in your area, especially those drains that are used infrequently, such as basement and garage drains. If you have proper connections, there should not be any problems.

NOTICE SMOKE TESTING SANITARY SEWER SURVEY

In the next few days, inspection crews will be conducting a physical survey of a portion of the MSD sanitary sewer system. This study will involve the opening and entering of manholes in the streets and easements. An important task of the survey will be the "SMOKE TESTING" of sewer lines to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. The smoke that you see coming from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is NON-TOXIC, HARMLESS, HAS NO ODOR, AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD. The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps. If this occurs, you should consult your licensed plumber. In any event, if the harmless smoke can enter through faulty plumbing, the potential exists for dangerous sewer gases to enter your home. Should smoke enter your home, you may contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in the area and he will be pleased to check with you as to where and why the smoke has entered your home. If you have any seldom used drains, (including floor drains), please pour water in the drain to fill the trap, which will prevent smoke from entering there. Drain traps should always be filled with water to prevent sewer gases or odors from entering the building. It is recommended that the central air conditioning condensation trap also be filled. This can be accomplished by running the unit several hours prior to smoke testing.

Some sewer lines and manholes may be located on the backyard easement property line. Whenever these lines require investigation, members of the inspection crews will need access to the easements for the sewer lines and manholes. Homeowners do not need to be home and AT NO TIME WILL FIELD CREWS HAVE TO ENTER YOUR BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE.

Photographs will be made of leaks occurring in the system. We anticipate the smoke testing will require a few hours in your area. Your cooperation is appreciated. The information gained from this study will be used to improve your sewer services.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL THE Metropolitan Sewerage District
AT 255-0061 AND ASK FOR THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF SMOKE TESTING.**

We anticipate the SMOKE TESTING will begin and end within the next week. If you know someone who may not know about this notice, please inform them of the testing.

