



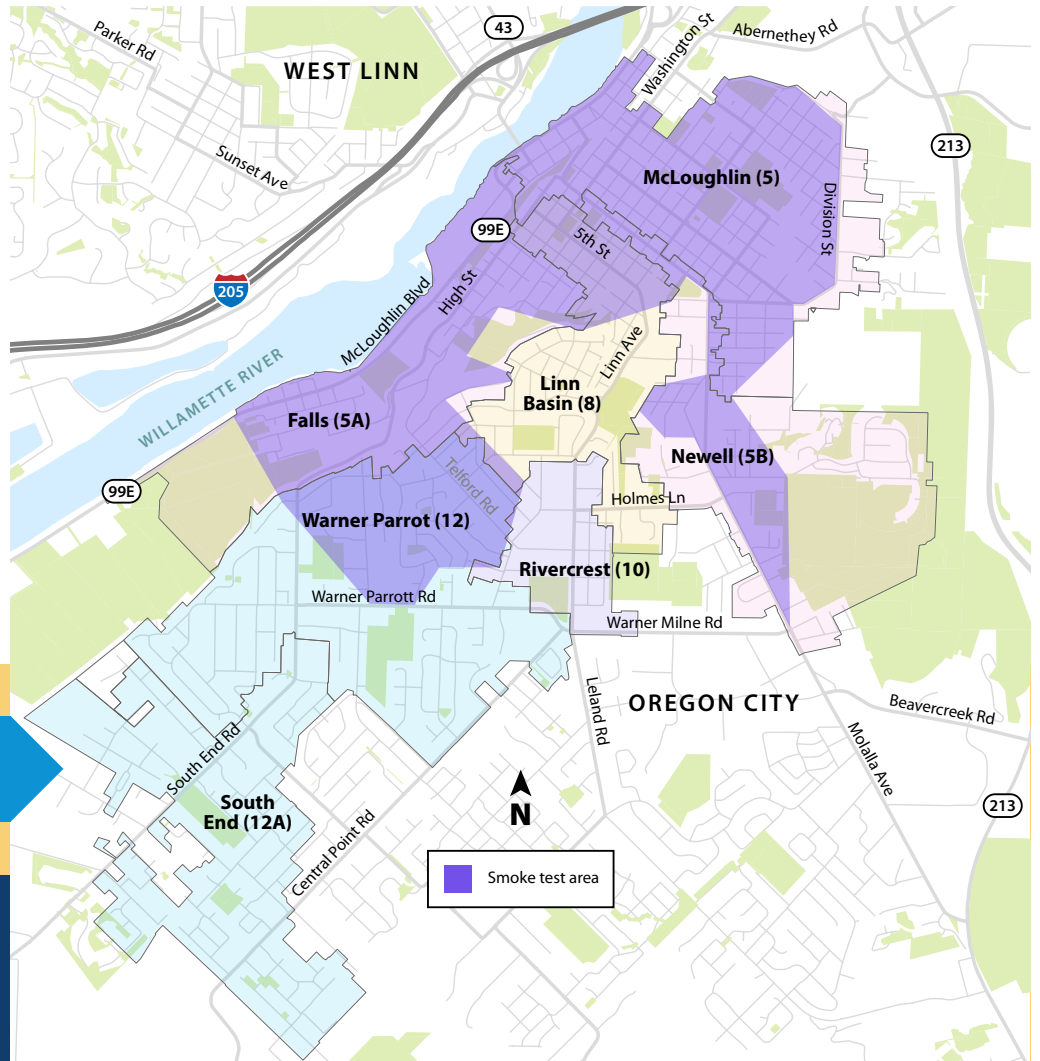
SMOKE TESTING IN OREGON CITY

SUMMER
2023

The City sometimes smoke tests the sewer system to help identify any areas of inflow and infiltration.

2023 SCHEDULE

In August 2023, we'll smoke test throughout the Canemah, Elyville, McLoughlin, Rivercrest, and South End neighborhoods. The map shows which sewer basins we'll be in. We'll leave affected residents a door hanger at least 24 hours before we start.



Basins being tested

WHAT IS SMOKE TESTING?

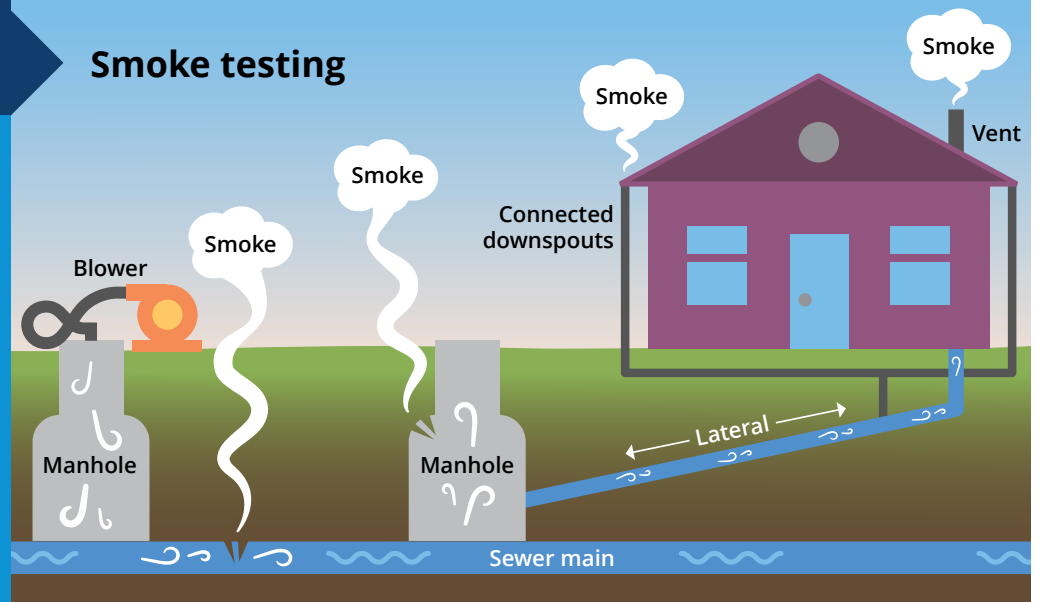
Smoke testing is how we find cracks and improper connections to the sanitary sewer system. We blow smoke (or really, mist) into a sewer line and watch where it comes out.

THIS CAN SHOW US:

- Cracks in the sewer line
- Defective sewer connections
- Improper cross-connections with storm drains
- Building connections without proper traps or plumbing

Finding and fixing these sewer line problems helps protect public health and safety.

Smoke testing



HOW DOES SMOKE TESTING WORK?

Crews block off a section of sewer line and use a blower to pump “smoke” into a manhole. Then they watch whether it comes out of the ground, buildings, other manholes, storm drains, and any other places that might indicate a problem with the sewer line. Crews flag these areas for further examination and repair.

IS THE SMOKE HARMFUL TO PEOPLE?

No. It’s not really smoke. It’s a non-toxic, non-staining, odorless mist. Besides, it won’t enter your house if your plumbing is in good condition and all your drain traps have water.

Even so, avoid direct exposure if you have respiratory problems like asthma or emphysema. If you have questions or concerns, contact Kenny Cannady-Shultz at 971-204-4622 or kshultz@orcify.org.

WHAT ABOUT PETS?

If your pets stay inside during the day, and you are concerned about “smoke” entering your home, consider opening your windows. If they have respiratory problems, you might want to house them elsewhere that day.

IS IT A FIRE HAZARD? WILL IT SET OFF MY FIRE ALARM?

The “smoke” is not a fire hazard. However, it could still set off your fire alarm. Open your doors and windows to let it blow out.

If you believe the smoke in your building is from a real fire, call 911 immediately.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT WITH THE SMOKE TEST?

If your plumbing is in good condition and all your drain traps have water, “smoke” won’t enter your house. It may come out of your roof vents, though.

Sometimes drain traps on faucets that haven’t been used in a while will allow “smoke” to enter a building. To prevent this, run water through all your faucets for at least 30 seconds before the smoke testing starts.

I FILLED ALL MY DRAIN TRAPS, BUT “SMOKE” STILL ENTERED MY BUILDING. WHAT SHOULD I DO?

It means your plumbing has a problem that could be letting sewer gases inside. This can be caused by:

- A leak in your plumbing.
- A sewer vent that vents to your attic or inside your building instead of above your roof.
- A faulty seal such as your toilet’s wax ring.
- A drain that doesn’t have a trap.

If this happens:

- Open your windows and turn on any ventilation. The “smoke” should clear within a few minutes.
- Call the number listed on the door hanger you receive. The City will fix any problems with City sewer pipes that may have caused this.

You may also want to have a private plumber look at your pipe. (The City is not responsible for problems with private sewer pipes that might have caused this.)

DOES THE CITY NOTIFY PEOPLE IN AN AREA BEFORE DOING A SMOKE TEST?

Yes. The City or its contractor notifies residents and businesses at least 24 hours before work starts and provides weekly updates on the webpage and via social media.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact: Kenny Cannady-Shultz 971-204-4622 | kshultz@orcify.org | bit.ly/OC-smoke-testing