



SANITARY SEWER SMOKE TESTING

In the coming weeks, contractors hired by the City will be conducting smoke testing of the public sanitary sewer system in your area. Smoke testing is part of the City's ongoing program to improve the sewer collection system by reducing unwanted water inflow and infiltration. Inflow occurs when storm drainage is improperly piped into the sewer. Infiltration occurs when cracks or other defects in the sewer mains allow groundwater to enter. Unwanted storm drainage and groundwater inflow to the sewer increases risk of sewage overflows and unnecessarily increases the volume of waste water treated at the Treatment Plant, ultimately increasing ratepayer costs.

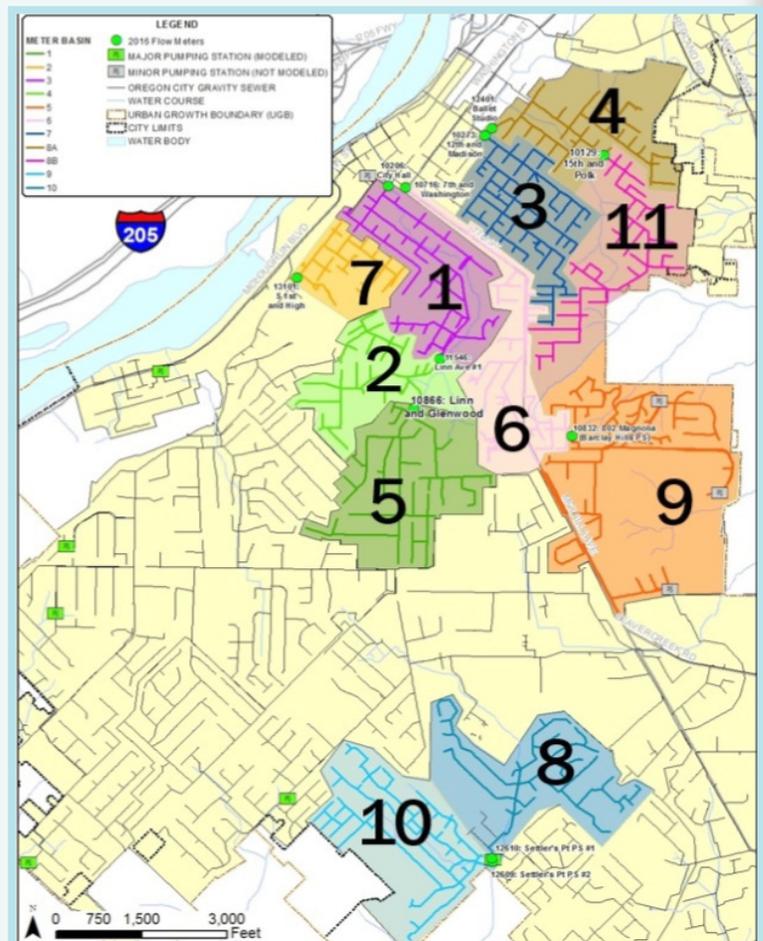
The smoke testing program will use an air blower and smoke to fill the sewer mains with non-toxic, non-odorous and non-staining smoke. Technicians will observe and document where smoke escapes from stormwater catch basins, rain gutters, or below-grade pipe defects, indicating inflow sources. Smoke testing follows the flow monitoring of the sewers carried out in 2012 and early 2016, and will help identify projects for the City to pursue to reduce storm and groundwater from getting into the sewer. Such projects will reduce sewer overflows and help control sewage treatment costs.

In addition to this notice, the smoke testing contractor will deliver door notices immediately prior to smoke testing with contact information and specific instructions on controlling and responding to the unusual situation where smoke might get into your home. The smoke should not enter your home, but in instances where it does, it indicates you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps. Again, the smoke is non-toxic, non-odorous and non-staining.

Schedule

Smoke Testing is expected to commence the week of October 3rd and proceed for 4-6 weeks, weather permitting. The adjacent map describes the planned sequence for smoke testing in various neighborhoods. The exact schedule of when the smoke testing contractor will be moving from basin to basin will depend on ground conditions that are encountered once the work is underway.

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.



Coordination

In an effort to coordinate services, Emergency Services, such as the Fire Department and Police Department, have been notified that smoke testing will be taking place across the City, and City staff will keep them apprised of specific work areas as daily progress continues to limit false alarms.

Smoke Testing Results

The results of the smoke testing program will be documented by the consultant who is leading the effort. Please see the City website (link provided below) for updates on the results of the smoke testing program, as well as other project information.

What to do to Prepare for Smoke Testing and/or If Smoke Gets Into Your Home

- It is advisable to pour a gallon of water into each sink drain, bathtub drain, and any floor (basement) drain prior to the testing.
- If smoke enters your home during the testing, please alert the work crew working adjacent to your home.
- A Public Works Operations staff member will accompany the work crews and will be available to investigate and assist with clearing the smoke if it enters your home.

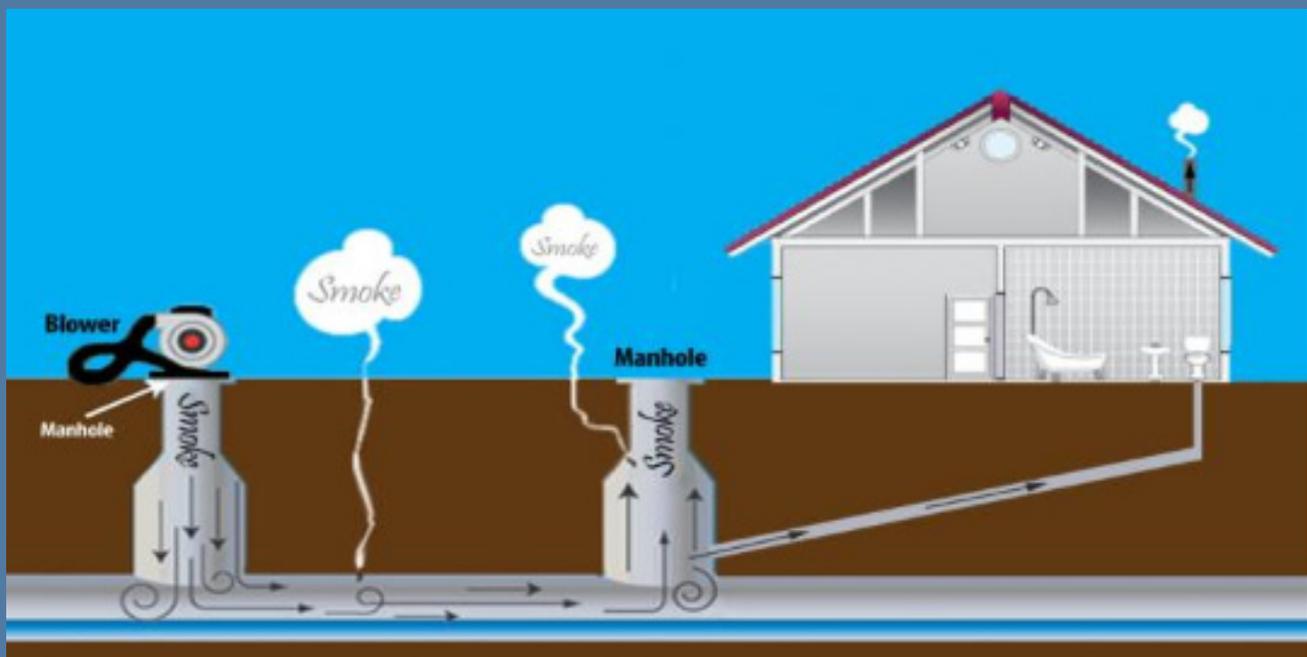
Website Link for More Information

Sewer Smoke Testing Project Page: www.orcity.org/publicworks/project/ps-15-019

Additional Questions or Concerns?

Contact Jonathan Archibald, Project Engineer, at 503.974.5506 or jarchibald@orcity.org

This picture depicts smoke testing showing pipe defects where smoke is escaping the City sewer and a properly functioning home plumbing system with the smoke simply escaping through the existing vent on your roof.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND COOPERATION