



SMOKE TESTING SANITARY SEWER LINES

WILL BE OCCURRING IN YOUR AREA

The Town of Kirklin will be conducting sanitary sewer smoke testing in your area the week(s) of September 14 and 21, 2026 (weather dependent). The testing helps identify leaks in the sanitary sewer system that may cause problems leading to sewer overflows and/or reduced capacity at the wastewater treatment plant.

During the testing, a non-toxic, non-staining white smoke will be blown from manholes into the sanitary sewers. Leaks in the sewers, house laterals, and plumbing that would allow groundwater or rainwater into the sewers are identified by the visible smoke leaking from the system.

Residents may see smoke coming out of manholes and inlets or out of the ground. Additionally, smoke may be seen coming from building gutters, downspouts, and plumbing vents on roofs. Smoke should not enter homes. If it does enter a home it could mean a drain trap is dry or there is a plumbing defect. **It is recommended that property owners pour a few glasses of water into each floor drain, sink, bathtub, or other fixture with a drain. The water will properly fill the drain trap and prevent the entry of smoke.**

The smoke will disappear without leaving a residue or odor. It will dissipate more quickly if a window or door is opened in the affected area. Safety Data Sheets of the product are available upon request from field personnel conducting the testing. If you notice smoke entering your home, contact a member of the testing team located nearby.

The smoke used in this testing is specifically manufactured for this purpose and has been found to be HARMLESS by a team of experts in the fields of industrial hygiene, toxicology, and medicine. Their analysis report states that "...*none of the smoke (tested) appears capable of causing even minor injury to people whom may be exposed during controlled use*". The smoke being used is chemically generated but is non-toxic, non-staining, has no odor, and creates no fire hazard. However, as a precaution, we recommend any person with respiratory sensitivity to take the necessary precautions and avoid exposure.

The Town of Kirklin has contracted with Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. to assist with the smoke testing program. Commonwealth personnel will have identification with them at all times.

Smoke testing may take place weekdays between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, providing there is no significant rainfall for 24-hours prior to the scheduled testing. Testing will not be performed on the weekends.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Commonwealth Engineers, Inc.
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Toll Free: (800) 289-1177