

Sanitary Sewer Testing Information

Dear Grove Resident:

The City of Grove is conducting an evaluation of the city's sanitary sewer system. This evaluation involves smoke testing of the sanitary sewer lines. Tetra Tech, an engineering firm that specializes in sewer evaluation studies, will conduct the work. Tetra Tech crews will be conducting smoke testing beginning Monday 7.25 – Friday 7.29.

Door hangers with information about smoke testing will be delivered to each residence surrounding the smoke testing area where smoke testing is scheduled to take place. Please see the map with smoke testing boundaries shown in blue. Smoke testing will take place on the sanitary system inside of the blue boundary.

The smoke testing procedures involve introducing smoke into sections of the sewer system via manholes and observing where the smoke is emitted to determine where structural defects or faulty piping connections exist. Residents should pour approximately two cups of water into each floor and sink drain to ensure that the drain traps are full so that the smoke will not pass through the traps, and into the residence. Dry traps, and drains without traps, or faulty plumbing may allow the smoke to enter the residence. Traps will normally dry out if the drains are not routinely used. Dry traps can commonly be found in basements and in bathrooms that are not used regularly, or under central air conditioning units. Drains without traps will allow the smoke to pass unless temporarily plugged during the smoke testing activities. During testing you will see Tetra Tech personnel in uniform with badges walking the area, along streets and through yards where sewer lines are located. Each property tied into the sewer system will have at least one connection and service line that will be evaluated during this process and personnel will visually inspect each connection as quickly as possible. Personnel on site will always gladly answer any questions presented to them pertaining to the smoke testing.

The smoke utilized during the testing procedure is a non-toxic white smoke. The City of Grove and Tetra Tech are attempting to inform the community about these smoke testing activities as thoroughly as possible in order to avoid any confusion or false sense of alarm.

If you are elderly, bedridden or have a respiratory condition and you feel that you need assistance in preparing for the smoke testing or if you have other specific concerns, you are encouraged to call Rick Sabourin or Terri Kuykendall with Tetra Tech at the number listed below prior to the smoke testing so that more detailed notification arrangements can be made. Our number is: (918) 249-3909.

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