

## **What Is Smoke Testing?**

Smoke testing is used to detect any water other than wastewater entering the sewer system. This water could be coming from roof leaders, cross connections between the wastewater and storm water systems, cleanouts, driveway and yard drains, damage to the wastewater system, loose joints in the wastewater pipes, etc. Smoke testing is an inexpensive and effective way to quickly identify inflow and infiltration (I & I) sources. I & I can lead to sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), which the City needs to eliminate due to State of Oregon and Department of Environmental Quality rules and because they are bad for the environment.

## **How does Smoke Testing work?**

City crews position a blower at a manhole and blow smoke down into it. The smoke then travels down the sewer. If there are any openings along the way, some of the smoke will escape through the opening. Smoke may appear to be coming from holes in the ground or vent stacks on houses

## **Important Instructions for Residents Prior to Smoke Testing:**

- When you are notified that smoke testing is going to occur in your neighborhood you should make sure that all traps under basins (including garage sinks), washing facilities, and floor drains have water in them. This can be done by pouring 3 cups of water in them or running the faucet for 60 seconds. This will help prevent smoke from entering your home.
- If you have pets and are not going to be home when smoke testing is being conducted, it would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, should any smoke enter the building
- If smoke gets into the house, contact\_\_\_\_\_. Open your windows for ventilation and the smoke will soon dissipate.
- Smoke should not enter your house. If it does, it may be an indication of a defect in your plumbing. This defect could allow sewer gases to enter your house. Sewer gases can be a health hazard. The correction of these defects in your plumbing is the responsibility of the homeowner. A licensed plumber should be consulted to make the corrections properly.

## **Is the Smoke dangerous?**

The smoke used by the City is odorless and is not hazardous, toxic, or flammable. It is manufactured specifically for this purpose. The smoke may make you cough, but it is not harmful to your health. The smoke will not harm clothing, drapes, or furniture. The smoke is also not harmful to your pets or plants. Smoke that gets in buildings dissipates quickly and leaves no residue or stains.