



OUR FUTURE IN EVERY DRÖP

SMOKE TESTING IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The City of Santa Rosa conducts Smoke Testing of the sanitary sewer system to find defects and faulty connections where excess rain water (Inflow) and ground water (Infiltration) can enter the sanitary sewer system. Identifying and eliminating inflow and infiltration helps maintain the sewer systems infrastructure by reducing flows into the wastewater system, stabilizes treatment costs, and helps prevent sewer backups and overflows.



Process:

- Simulated non-toxic smoke will be injected into the sewer system. As a result, smoke may be seen coming from manhole covers, storm drains, roof vents, and building foundations.
- After each setup the smoke test will last approximately 30 minutes.
- Photographs will be taken to document potential leaks/defects.
- Inspection crews will not need to enter buildings, unless to gain access to building rooftops.
- Faucets and bathroom facilities can still be used during smoke testing.

Tips to prevent smoke from entering your building (*complete prior to test*):

- Run water faucets for a few seconds in unused sinks, tubs, and drains to fill fixture traps.
- Pour water into each floor drain (at least 1 gallon)
- If you have defective plumbing (i.e. no trap), you should consult with a licensed plumber.

If you notice smoke in your building:

- **Do NOT become alarmed**
- Open doors and windows to ventilate the premises to clear smoke.
- **Contact the Santa Rosa Water Department at 707-543-4200.**
- Simulated smoke will not stain walls or furniture; nor will it leave a residue.
- Consult a licensed plumber in the near future to identify the smoke access area, as the potential exists for sewer gases to enter the building in the same manner.

Safety/ Health Issues:

- There is **NO** danger of fire or explosion of sewer gas with the smoke testing process.
- Fire Departments will be notified of the smoke testing.
- **Simulated smoke is not harmful to your health, but may cause some coughing.** Smoke irritation is temporary and should disappear after exposure has ceased. When possible avoid unnecessary exposure to simulated smoke.
- The smoke is not harmful to pets, but it would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, should any smoke enter the building. If you have proper plumbing connections and all of the drain traps have water in them, there should not be any problem.
- If there is an individual in your building, business, or residence who has respiratory problems and/or mobility limitations please contact Santa Rosa Water Department at 707-543-4200.

For more information, visit srcity.org/1045 or call 707-543-4200.