



VILLAGE OF SUFFERN, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CHARLES W. SAWICKI
DIRECTOR

61 Washington Avenue
Suffern, New York 10901

(845) 357-2602

NOTICE TO VILLAGE OF SUFFERN RESIDENTS

The Village of Suffern will be conducting tests of the sanitary sewer systems and house laterals as part of a sanitary sewer evaluation program.

The Department of Public Works will be evaluating sanitary sewers in the months of March and April. During day light hours, crews will be testing sanitary sewer lines. These tests involve blowing harmless smoke into parts of the sanitary sewer system to find where unwanted stormwater may be entering.

As a result, smoke may be seen coming from roof vents, building foundations, or manhole covers. The smoke will not enter your home or building if it is properly plumbed and vented, and the water traps contain water. The smoke is a non-toxic substance that is clean and harmless to humans, pets, food and material goods.

Prior notice will be issued for each specific area tested. Your presence at home is not required during the test. All public safety authorities have been notified. We would appreciate it if you would mention this notice to your neighbors to prevent needless concern.

Please contact **845-357-2602** if any smoke enters your home or building. The smoke will clear in a few minutes with proper ventilation.

Common questions are answered on page 2 of this notice. If you should have any further questions, please contract: **845-357-2602**.

COMMON QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. Q. Is the smoke harmful?
A. No. It may make you cough, but it is not harmful to your health and will not harm clothing, drapes or furniture.
2. Q. Why would smoke enter my home?
A. The only reason smoke would enter your home is if you have defective plumbing or your traps lack water. Traps are 'P' or 'S' shaped fixtures located under basins, washing facilities, and floor drains. They are designed to retain water so that sewer odors do not enter your home. When you receive a notice that smoke testing will take place, you should check to see that all traps have water in them.
3. Q. What should you do if smoke gets into the house?
A. Contact the Crew Chief working in the area. Open windows for ventilation. The smoke will soon dissipate. Additionally, it would be a good idea to contact a plumber.
4. Q. What is the purpose of smoke testing?
A. To find possible leaks in the sanitary sewer system and roof drain connections. Smoke testing can help locate bad connections that homeowners or occupants are not aware of.
5. Q. I will not be at home during smoke testing and have pets in the house. What should I do?
A. The smoke is not harmful to pets. It would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, should any smoke enter the building. If you have proper connections and all of the traps have water in them, no smoke should enter the house.
6. Q. If smoke gets into the house, how long does it take for the smoke to dissipate?
A. This will depend upon how much smoke enters the building and how much ventilation you can provide.
7. Q. Can smoke stop up the sewer?
A. There is no way smoke can stop up a sewer. The smoke is a vaporous substance.