



NOTIFICATION OF SMOKE TESTING

On December 8 and 10, 2015, workers for the City of New Castle will blow smoke into the sewer lines in your area to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system. Homeowners do not need to be home and the inspectors will not need to enter your house. *This smoke is not toxic, will not stain clothes or furniture, has a slight odor, and will not create a fire.*

The tests will be conducted by **AECOM** a consulting engineering firm hired by the City. The inspectors will be wearing lime vests and will have photo identification cards. They will need to walk around the front and back of the property to look for signs of smoke coming from area drains, down spouts, or the ground.

TEST HOURS:

The testing will be conducted between the hours of 7:00 am and 5:00 pm. Since smoke will not travel through water soaked ground, smoke testing will not occur during or immediately after rain events.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO BUILDING OCCUPANTS:

To help prevent smoke from entering the building, please be sure to run some water in all sinks and tubs to fill the drain pipe traps. You do not need to leave the water running. A properly installed drain pipe trap will fill with normal use and prevent sewer gases, sewer odors or the smoke from entering the building. Some washing machine drain pipes are not properly trapped, so you may want to cover washing machine drains with a wet rag. It is normal for smoke to come from the sewer vents on the house roof or side vent pipes.

IF YOU SEE OR SMELL SMOKE IN YOUR HOME:

1. *Call the Fire Department* - The local fire companies are notified as part of our standard operating procedure when smoke testing operations are actually underway. They know to contact the smoke test personnel before responding to a call on the day they are notified of smoke testing activity.
2. *Look for smoke test crews working in your area* - Ask them to investigate your smoke problems.
3. *Contact a plumber* - Smoke should not enter your building or home unless you have defective plumbing or dry drain pipe traps.

NOTIFY THE COUNTY IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. A handicapped individual or invalid alone in the home.
2. An individual with respiratory problems in the home.
3. Elderly persons who will be alone and might be afraid if they see smoke.

For questions, contact Rich Lekberg (AECOM) (302) 535-9464.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important effort to improve service to the community.

Jeffery A. Bergstrom

Building Official & Fire Marshal

City of New Castle

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