



For Immediate Release
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Testing of Sewer System Takes Place Next Week

Harrisonburg, VA – The City of Harrisonburg will soon begin another round of testing to the sanitary sewer system.

Beginning next week, field crews with the Public Utilities Department, will release a non-toxic and non-staining test smoke into the manholes, which will travel through the sanitary sewer in order to detect any potential breaks or leaks in the system.

Testing will take place August 20 through the end of September. The first phase of this testing will take place in the community on the west side of High Street, from Erickson Avenue to Ridge Road. The second phase of testing will be on the east side of High Street, from Warsaw Avenue to Erickson Avenue.

Residents should expect to see smoke being released from plumbing vents, which are located on the roof top. Smoke being released from these vents is a clear indication of a properly installed plumbing system.

Tips for residents:

- It is recommended to pour one gallon of water into the drain traps of floors, sinks, showers, and tubs. This will help prevent sewer gases or smoke from entering a home or business.
- If the non-toxic smoke enters a residence or business, this is a sign of a defect in the plumbing. When this occurs, there is no need to contact emergency services. Open a window or door for ventilation, note the location of the smoke, and contact a qualified plumber.
- Anyone with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions should not stay in a building, where smoke has entered, as a precautionary measure.

Every fiscal year, July 1 through June 30, crews test the sewer system in a different area. Approximately 24 miles of sewer line are tested during this time frame.

Residents with questions regarding the testing process may contact the Public Utilities Department at 540-434-9959.

The map below outlines the area that will be tested with the red outlining phase one and the blue outlining phase two.

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