



City of Harrisonburg
Public Information Office
345 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
540-432-8931 FAX 540-432-7778

For Immediate Release
July 23, 2014

Contact: Mary-Hope Vass, Public Information Officer
540.432.8931
MaryHope.Vass@HarrisonburgVA.gov

Sewer System Testing Takes Place Next Week

Harrisonburg, VA – The Public Utilities Department will begin their annual tests of Harrisonburg’s sanitary sewer system.

Testing will take place starting Monday, July 28 and will wrap up by the end of September.

Field personnel 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 system in order to detect any breaks or leaks in the city’s system.

Every fiscal year, a different section of the sewer system is tested. Approximately 24 miles of sewer lines are tested throughout the year.

Testing will take place in the Harmony Heights and Park View neighborhoods, west of Virginia Avenue. This will include portions of Mount Clinton Pike and Acorn Drive, east of Virginia 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.

Questions? Contact the Public Utilities Department at 540-434-9959.

*The **Harrisonburg Department of Public Utilities** is responsible for providing water and sewer services to residences and businesses. The Department currently manages approximately 16,000 accounts. For more information about these functions of the city, visit www.harrisonburgva.gov/public-utilities.*

###