

For Immediate Release
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Testing of the City's Sewer System Continues

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Public Utilities Department will continue testing Harrisonburg's sanitary sewer system.

Testing started earlier this month and will continue through mid-October.

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. The purpose of this testing is to detect any breaks or leaks in the city's system and make appropriate repairs, if necessary.

The city has a total of 190 miles of sewer lines and a portion of those lines are tested each year.

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.

The next section of the city, where testing is taking place starting September 1, includes (*see map below*): South Avenue to the north; Interstate 81 to the east; South High Street to the west; Pear Street to the south; and Pleasant Valley Road to the south.

Tips for residents:

- It is recommended to pour one gallon of water into the drain traps of floors, sinks, showers and tubs. This will 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 on the residential end. 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.

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This schedule can be subject to change due to weather conditions and unforeseen maintenance on equipment. Updates for this testing will be provided on the city's [website](#), [Harrisonburg, VA on Facebook](#), and [@HarrisonburgVA](#).

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

*Who will notify you if an emergency-related event is happening in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County? Sign up to receive free alerts through the **Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Emergency Alert System** by visiting www.HREmergencyAlert.com.*



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