



For Immediate Release
October 22, 2015

Contact: Anne Lewis, Assistant City Manager
540.432.7701
anne.lewis@HarrisonburgVA.gov

Testing of the City's Sewer System Nears Completion

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Public Utilities Department is nearing completion of the annual testing of Harrisonburg's sanitary sewer system.

During the week of October 26-30, the department will be smoke testing in an area at the intersection of Elizabeth and Broad. The smoke may carry down the storm sewer as far as Court Square on Main Street.

Field personnel with the Public Utilities Department 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.

Residents and businesses 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 and businesses:

- 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.

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](#).

-MORE-

PRESS RELEASE: TESTING OF THE CITY'S SEWER SYSTEM NEARS COMPLETION
PAGE 2



Map of Sanitary Sewer System Testing Area

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.*



###