

Notification of Sanitary Sewer Testing

As a part of the Town of Vestal's efforts to minimize Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) from rain water into the sanitary collection system, smoke testing will be performed in specific areas of the Town's collection system. The purpose of this work is to identify points where storm water could be entering the sanitary collection system, please refer to Vestal Town code under **section 18-26**. Another benefit to smoke testing is the ability to identify faulty plumbing ventilation systems within homes and businesses that allow **dangerous sewer gas** to enter.

The Town Water and Sewer department will be conducting smoke tests in the collection system from June until completion. The Town will also notify the fire and police department when testing is taking place. The Town will attempt to minimize any inconveniences to residents and businesses and appreciate your assistance to complete this work. Please note that the department staff will be conducting the work, documenting their observations with video recording and or still photographs and all workers will be in Town uniforms and have their identification badges with them. **No employee** should be asking to gain entrance to a residence or business during this testing unless requested by the owner to investigate a potential problem inside. The smoke that may be seen coming from vent stacks on buildings or holes in the ground is **non-toxic, odorless, harmless, and creates no fire hazard**. The smoke should not enter the home unless the plumbing is defective. Please pour 1 gallon of water in any basement or garage floor drains to prevent smoke from entering your home through a dry floor trap. **The smoke can set off certain smoke detectors, therefore you may want to cover them just before the testing. If you do please make sure you uncover them after testing is complete.**

Smoke testing works by introducing a non-toxic, non staining smoke into a portion of the sanitary collection system using a gas-powered blower under low pressure, which forces the smoke to areas where possible leaks exist. There is a small chance that smoke may enter your home or business during this testing procedure. Should you see smoke, **PLEASE DO NOT PANIC**. The smoke used during this test poses **NO** harmful effects. If smoke is visible in your home or business, open doors and windows to ventilate the trapped smoke. The smoke will not stain or leave a residue in your home or business. Further information on the testing can be found on the Town's website at www.vestalny.com.

Please notify us before we conduct the test if you have any of the following situations:

- Known open plumbing, missing caps or sump pumps.
- Dogs, birds or other pets that will be confined alone in the building during the test.
- A person who will be alone and is and an invalid or if a person will be sleeping during the test.
- Elderly persons who will be alone and might be alarmed or confused if they see smoke.
- A person who suffers from heart and/ or lung disease such as emphysema.

In the event that smoke does enter your home, please contact the Town Water and Sewer Department at 607-748-6683 between 7:00am and 3:30pm and we will discuss possible conditions that may have caused the test result. After 3:30pm, please call 607-755-4911 and you will be notified by a department employee.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact the Town of Vestal Water Department at 607-748-6683.