

# The Borough of Penndel is conducting a Smoke Test of its Sanitary Sewer System

Work crews from Sewer Specialty Services will be in the Borough starting \_\_\_\_\_.

A "SMOKE TEST" survey will assist our inspection crews in locating breaks and defects in our sewer system.

## **What is the benefit to my town for performing a Smoke Test?**

Smoke Testing is one technique utilized to identify sections of sewer which may exhibit inflow during heavy rainfall. Smoke Testing is the best used to detect inflow sources such as roof leaders, cellar, yard and area drains, foundation drains, abandon building sewers, faulty connections, illegal connections, and storm water drainage system cross connections. It can also detect structural damages & leaking joints in sewer pipes & overflow points in sewer systems.

## **What exactly is a Smoke Test?**

A crew will use a high capacity blower smoke technique to test each sewer line. Smoke blowers are placed on manholes & smoke is blown through the sewer system. Anywhere the smoke exits, there is potential for stormwater to enter the sewer system.

## **Is the smoke that you use hazardous?**

NO! The smoke that comes out of the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is non-Toxic, harmless, and has no odor. It does not create a fire hazard.

## **Do Borough residents have to do anything to prepare their homes for Smoke Testing?**

Drain traps should always be filled with water to prevent sewer gases from entering the building. About 3 cups of water should be poured in floor & sink drains, filling the traps to prevent smoke from entering the home. If smoke does enter, the resident should consult a local licensed plumber. If harmless smoke can enter through faulty plumbing, the potential exists for dangerous sewer gases to also enter the home. Should smoke enter your building or structure, contact a member of the smoke testing crew in the area.

## **What if smoke comes out of a resident's yard or driveway?**

This could mean that there is a drain on the property which is connected to the house lateral instead of the storm system. It could also mean that there is not direct connection, but that the lateral has breaks or cracks in the pipe that drain runoff after it had percolated into the soil.

## **If there is smoke in the residents yard, does that mean the cause of the leak needs to be dug up?**

In a worst case scenario, yes, but there are many other solutions, such as disconnecting the drain or lining a portion of the house lateral without an excavation.

## **Does the resident need to be home when the Smoke Testing is performed?**

Homeowners do NOT need to be home and at no time will field crews need to enter the residence. Field Inspectors will be noticeable documenting the testing, taking photos and measuring distances so that the defects may be found at a later date and repaired.

Questions or concerns call Penndel Borough @ 215-757-5153 or Sewer Specialty Services @ 585-315-2046