



SMOKE TESTING NOTICE TO RESIDENT

PLEASE READ

This is to inform you that Video Industrial Services, a certified contractor for Decatur Utilities, will be smoke testing the sanitary sewer system in your area in the coming weeks.

Why This Testing Method is Used

This test is part of our continuing effort to provide a safe, economical, efficient, and environmentally sound sanitary sewer system throughout the City of Decatur. The smoke testing method is a proven and effective means of identifying problem areas within the sewer system. Eliminating defects and improper connections will help Decatur Utilities remain in compliance with state and federal regulatory agencies regarding sanitary sewer overflows.

How Smoke Testing Works

This test consists of dispersing smoke into the sewer lines and manholes in order to identify defects in the sewer mains where groundwater or storm water may be entering the system. This smoke is odorless and safe, leaving no residues, stains, and having no adverse effect on people, animals, or plants.

What to Expect

As the smoke is dispersed into the sewer system, the smoke will penetrate up through the ground and can be seen coming from roof vents, building foundations, catch basins, clean-outs, down spouts, broken sewer laterals, or manhole covers. Smoke should not enter your home or business if it is properly plumbed, vented, and the drain traps contain water. Additionally, affected customers should expect to receive notification from our contractor (Video Industrial Services), via door hanger, two (2) days prior to when the smoke testing will begin in your area.

Important Notice to Residents

Water can evaporate from unused plumbing fixtures. If you have a bathroom, plumbing fixture, or basement floor drain that is not used or is seldom used, please pour at least two gallons of water into these fixtures the day before the scheduled smoke testing.

If Problems are Found

It is normal for the smoke to discharge from the plumbing vents on your roof. However, if your plumbing is faulty or drains traps are dry, the smoke may enter your house through your plumbing. Smoke coming from holes in the ground or out of your down spouts are not normal and is considered a defect or an improper connection. In the event that smoke does enter your building, please open all windows and doors to allow for proper ventilation until the smoke has cleared. Please advise a representative of the smoke testing crew or Decatur Utilities in the event that smoke enters your building. All smoke testing discoveries shall be photographed and documented. Decatur Utilities will contact the property owners if a defect or improper connection is located on private property.

Special Requests

While smoke testing is safe, residents who have special needs, concerns, or questions, please contact Jordan Young at (256) 552-1403 or Brad Irwin (256) 552-1483

Additional Information

Your presence at your home or business is not required. Pets should be considered during the day of the test, if they must be left unattended, make sure that proper ventilation is provided. Pets may also become frightened if smoke enters the house. All Fire, Police, Emergency Medical, and City of Decatur Officials have been notified of this work.

Learn more about the smoke testing process: www.decturutilities.com/smoketesting

Learn more about the liquid smoke used in this process: www.hurcotech.com/liquismoke