

City of Potterville

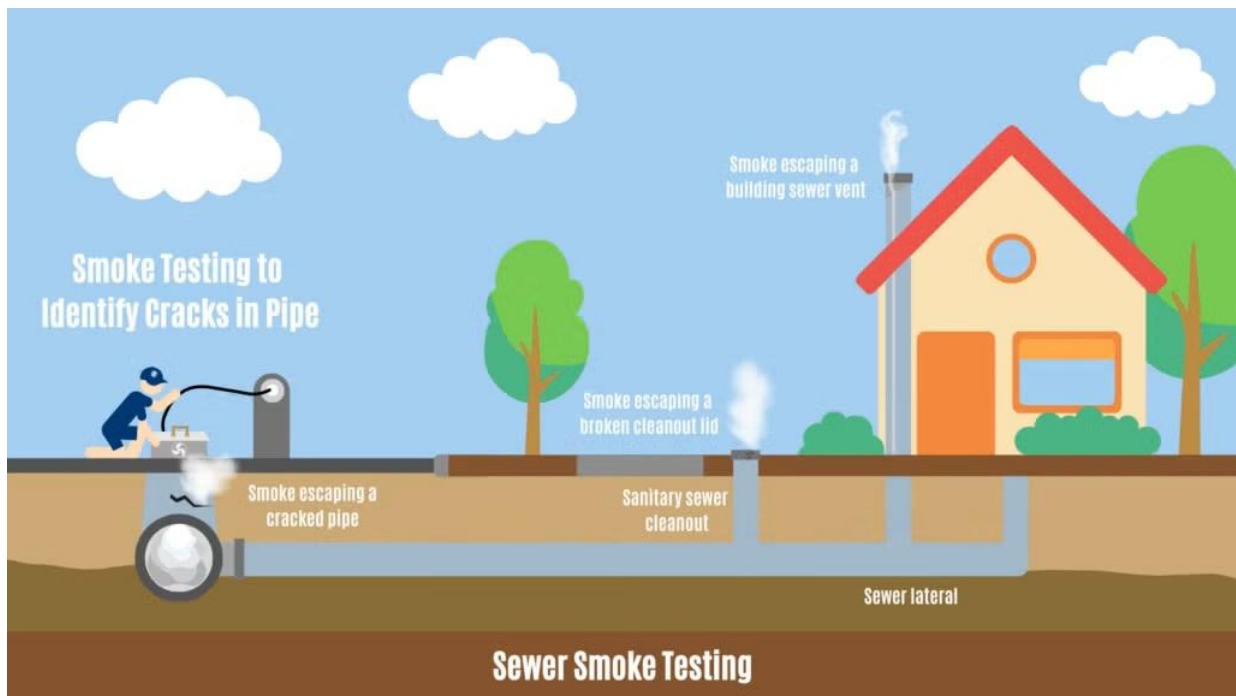
319 N. Nelson St. ♦ PO Box 488 ♦ Potterville, MI 48876 ♦ Phone: (517) 645-7641
Fax: (517) 645-7810 ♦ www.pottervillemi.org

NOTICE OF SMOKE TESTING OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM

The City of Potterville Department of Public Works will be performing smoke testing, June 15th through June 19th (weather dependent) to help identify any damages and/or possible illegal inflows and infiltrations of storm water into the public wastewater collection system that is treated by the City Utilities.

Smoke testing is safe and non-toxic to pets and humans, and a common method used to find potential leaks and deficiencies in the wastewater collection system, such as cracks and breaks, that would not otherwise be located without more intrusive investigations, such as excavation.

The testing of wastewater infrastructure is part of the City's ongoing Cross Connection Control Program, and being conducted by the City Department of Public Works and Michigan Rural Water Association, that once exact locations are confirmed, will be working with property owners to identify issues and advise them on necessary corrections.



Once exact testing neighborhoods are confirmed, residents living in areas where smoke testing will be taking place will be notified door to door. Some frequently asked questions are...

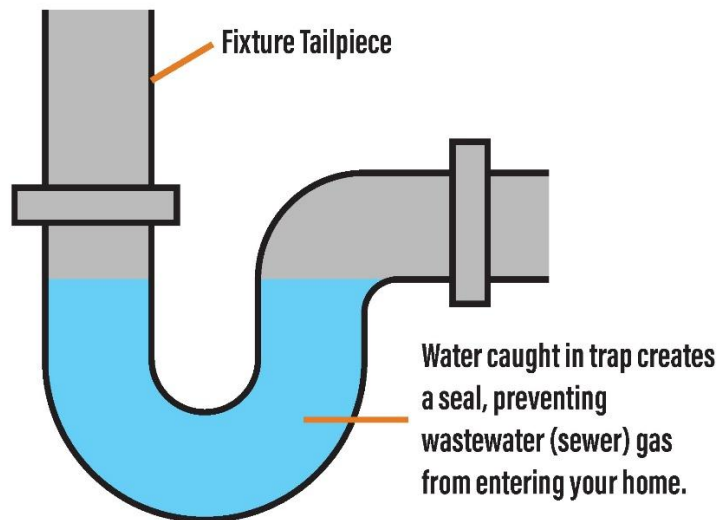
- **What to expect when smoke testing occurs?** *During testing, a non-toxic, light gray, artificially created smoke - like a fog machine at a concert - is blown into access points (manholes) in the wastewater system. While not harmful to humans, pets, plants, it can be*

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irritating to folks with respiratory issues. If you see testing taking place near a manhole and you have respiratory problems, you may wish to avoid travelling through the area.

- **Should I do anything for the test?** *Yes - please make sure all plumbing traps connected to your sinks, tubs/showers, and floor drains have water in them. See below picture of typical wastewater drain trap. This can be done by pouring about three cups of water in them or running the faucet for 60 seconds. Most frequently used plumbing traps have water that stops sewer gases rising back through the plumbing. However, if not used often, traps can go dry allowing smoke (and wastewater/sewer gases) into your home or business. This can be harmful to your health.*



- **What if I see smoke inside my home or business?** *If your plumbing traps have water in them as described above, the smoke should not enter your home or business during testing. If it does, please ventilate the building and contact City Hall. The smoke is an indication of a defect in your plumbing, and/or mean sewer gases are entering the residence/business, which is a health hazard. If you notice smoke inside during the test, you need to contact a licensed plumber to fix the issue and notify the City.*
- **What if I see smoke outside?** *Smoke plumes outside coming from plumbing vents and manhole rims during testing is normal. Some plumes can indicate defects and will be noted and photographed by the city.*
- **Do I need to be home during the smoke test?** *No. Inspection crews will not need to enter your home to complete the test.*
- **Why is the smoke test date flexible?** *The test cannot be conducted in rainy or windy conditions.*
- **Who has been notified that the smoke testing is occurring?** *Local Emergency services including City of Potterville/Eaton County Sherrif/MI State Police, Eaton County Central*

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Dispatch, Benton Township Fire Dept., and your neighbors in the testing area have been notified of the smoke test.

Most residences and businesses will only be in the test area for one or two set ups, and each set up takes approximately 30 minutes. Smoke test crews from the City's Department of Public Works will walk around the outside of your house and yard looking for smoke exiting the wastewater system. If you are home and see smoke inside or outside your home, you may notify a member of the test team on site and/or contact City Hall.

Again, if you have questions about this notice or the smoke test, please feel free to contact dstanley@pottervillemi.org and/or call City Hall at (517) 645-7641.