



SEWER SMOKE TEST INSPECTIONS 48-HOUR ADVANCED NOTICE

Charlotte County has contracted with Mead & Hunt to inspect the sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood. The purpose of the inspection is to identify sewer pipe breaks or defects that allow groundwater or stormwater to infiltrate the sewer system. This infiltration can lead to sewer system overflows into yards, streets, and natural water bodies. Preventing water infiltration and sewer overflows protects your community's environmental health and contributes to a more resilient and reliable sewer system.

The inspection will require opening manholes and pumping smoke into sections of the system to assess the condition of the sanitary sewer pipes. The white-to-gray smoke you may see coming from building vents, the ground, or manholes is fog-like, non-toxic, non-staining, and poses no fire hazard. The smoke may also have a distinctive but not unpleasant odor that will quickly dissipate once testing is complete.

Sanitary sewer pipes and manholes are typically located in easements, public rights-of-way, streets, or grassed areas of yards. **To complete the smoke test, field technicians may need to enter backyards to access sewer manholes and service laterals.** Some light excavation may be required in the public right-of-way near the road or alley by your home, but all surface materials will be restored upon completion. The work will take place on weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and may require short-term lane closures or traffic flagging.

Homeowners do not need to be home during inspections or smoke testing. **AT NO TIME WILL FIELD TECHNICIANS ENTER YOUR BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE.** Once inspections in your area begin, they will be completed within a few days. **Additional information about smoke testing is available on the reverse side.**

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work in your neighborhood to keep our sanitary sewer system operating effectively.

If you have any questions or concerns about the sewer work being performed in your neighborhood, please contact us at:



Phone: (941) 421-7880



Email: projectinfo@WWSAssessment.com



Website: www.charlottecountyfl.gov/smoketesting



For more information, scan the QR code to visit the project website.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long will the smoke testing take?

Mead & Hunt field technicians may be in your area throughout the day, but the smoke testing itself typically lasts about an hour.

Do I need to be home during the smoke testing?

No, you do not need to be home during the smoke testing. The smoke test is designed to identify sources of stormwater or groundwater entering the sewer system.

What should I do if smoke enters my home or business?

DO NOT BE ALARMED. Open your windows or exterior doors to ventilate the space, note the location of the smoke, and notify any Mead & Hunt field technicians in the area. The testing smoke will clear within a few minutes. **However, if you are unsure about the source of the smoke in your home or business, please call 911.**

Can the smoke testing activate the smoke alarm?

Yes. If the home or business is not properly plumbed or the water traps are dry, testing smoke can enter the building and may trigger smoke detectors. If possible, open windows and doors to ventilate the space. If you are unsure about the source of the smoke, please call 911.

What does it mean if smoke enters my home or business?

If smoke enters your home or business during the test, it may indicate plumbing deficiencies that also allow dangerous sewer gases to enter. Please contact your plumber to investigate the plumbing and recommend any necessary corrections.

When do you recommend evacuating the building?

The smoke poses no fire hazard and is safe, non-toxic, non-staining, and harmless to you, children, pets, plants, food, and materials. However, if you or anyone in your home or business has a respiratory condition or mobility limitation, you may wish to leave the building during the smoke test. If you require assistance, please notify us using the provided contact information before testing begins in your area.

Does the testing smoke have an odor?

The smoke has a distinctive but not unpleasant odor. Visibility and odor last only a few minutes with adequate ventilation

Can I leave my pet at home during the smoke testing?

The testing smoke is not harmful to pets. However, as a precaution, you can leave pets in a room without plumbing fixtures and close the door to keep them isolated from any smoke that may enter the home.