

## Smoke Testing Information

Phone Number: (781) 909-4054 – Weston & Sampson Smoke Testing Voicemail Line

### **Who will be performing Smoke Testing, and how do I verify personnel?**

The Town of Rockland (Town) is working with Weston & Sampson, an engineering firm that will be conducting the smoke testing.

Weston & Sampson field staff conducting the smoke testing will carry an ID badge and drive a vehicle labeled with the firm's name.

### **What is smoke testing?**

Smoke testing is an effective method for evaluating the sewer system to identify defects such as fractured or collapsed segments, misaligned joints, missing cleanout caps, or illegal connections tied to the mainline collection system. The smoke emerging from storm sewers, roof vents, or the ground indicates potential problem areas contributing to the sewer system's inflow and infiltration (I&I).

The combined flow between stormwater, groundwater, and sanitary wastewater can lead to hydraulic and biochemical issues in sewer collection and treatment systems. By identifying and addressing the defects, the Town can maintain the integrity of the sewer system, ensuring reliable service and reducing the risk of environmental contamination and system failures.

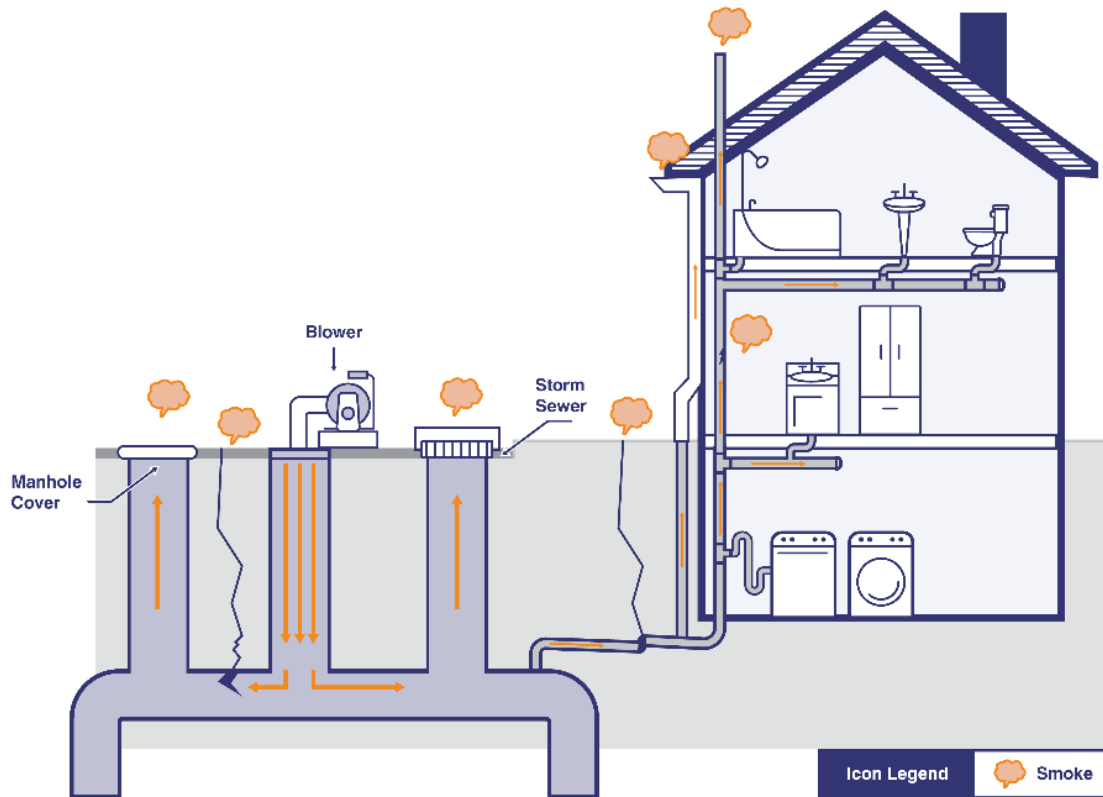
### **How will I be informed if a smoke test is performed at my residence?**

- A notice letter will be tagged on all residents' doors within the smoke testing areas one (1) week and one (1) to two (3) days before the event.
- Notice will have contact information and action to be taken before the event.
- If you have contacted the provided number with health concerns, you will receive a phone call to inform you on any necessary steps to take.

### **To conduct the test:**

- A smoke machine is placed in a manhole using a blower, and the blower begins blowing non-toxic and odorless smoke into the sewer system.
- Smoke then travels through the sewer pipes and roof vents.
- Weston and Sampson's field staff walk along the test section to spot any visible signs of smoke from each residence, catch basin, and/or ground.
- Drone will only be used in limited locations near industrial areas. If you notice a drone flying in the area, there is no need to worry. It is part of the smoke testing project, and the drone is being used to identify sources of smoke. The drone is equipped with safety features and follows all necessary regulations to ensure it operates safely and respectfully.
- If your home plumbing is adequate and the water traps are full, no smoke should be coming inside your home. However, if smoke is coming inside your home, the issue might be caused by the sewer lateral line or interior plumbing. If this is the case, it is your responsibility as a customer to resolve the issue.

- If smoke is spotted at a house connection, such as downspout, Weston & Sampson's personnel will document the source.
- The Town will address all mainline issues.



### How do I prepare for a smoke test?

Prior to smoke testing, you may wish to pour two (2) gallons of water down your basement floor drain or any unused plumbing fixture to ensure that the drain traps are effective.

You are not required to be home while smoke testing is taking place.

If smoke enters your home, it will not harm your pets as it is non-toxic.

### What should I do if smoke enters my home?

- If smoke enters your home, do not panic. Smoke is not hazardous.
- Inform Weston & Sampson personnel of the location of the smoke. If Weston & Sampson's field staff is not near your house, contact the Rockland Sewer Department at (781) 878-1964
- Open the windows and/or doors to help aerate the home. In case of an unrelated house fire, it is recommended to vacate the house.
- Smoke will eventually disappear on its own.

## **Questions and Concerns**

### **Is the smoke harmful?**

No, the smoke is not harmful. The smoke is non-toxic, odorless, non-carcinogenic, non-corrosive, leaves no residue, and creates no fire hazard.

### **Should I be home during the testing?**

While testing occurs, you do not need to be home; all pets can remain indoors.

### **Can the smoke testing activate the smoke alarms?**

If smoke enters your home, smoke alarms may be activated. If possible, open windows and/or doors to allow aeration.

### **What should I do if smoke gets into the house?**

Open windows and/or doors to allow aeration, then locate the smoke area. Notify Weston & Sampson's smoke testing personnel in the area and exit the house.

### **Why do you recommend evacuating the building?**

In the unlikely event that a fire occurs during smoke testing, and you see smoke in your home, it is recommended to evacuate the building as a precaution.

### **How long will the testing take?**

Smoke testing typically takes between a half hour and one hour to complete. Field staff may conduct tests in various parts of your neighborhood throughout the day.

### **Where does the smoke appear?**

Smoke might emanate from roof vents, downspouts, building foundations, manhole covers, or sewer cleanouts.

### **Why is there a drone flying in my area?**

Drone will only be used in limited locations near industrial areas. If you notice a drone flying in the area, there is no need to worry. It is part of the project we are conducting, and our team is using it for aerial smoke detection. The drone is equipped with safety features and follows all necessary regulations to ensure it operates safely and respectfully.