



Town of Rockland

Sewer Commission

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NOTICE

SMOKE TESTING

In order to improve the sewer service in your area, on behalf of the Town of Rockland, Weston & Sampson will be conducting smoke testing of the sanitary sewer from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. between September 16 and October 18, 2024, weather permitting.

During the test, white smoke is introduced to the sanitary sewer system via a smoke-generating machine. During this procedure, white smoke will be venting from holes in manhole covers located in the street and from plumbing vent pipes located on or near your roof surface. THIS IS NORMAL AND SHOULD NOT CAUSE ALARM.

Smoke should not enter your premises unless there is a dry trap in an unused fixture or a defect in your plumbing. You may wish to pour two gallons of water down your basement floor drain or unused plumbing fixture to ensure that the drain trap will be effective.

Should smoke be detected within your building, do not be alarmed. The smoke is NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING, and dissipates quickly through open windows. IF YOU HAVE A LUNG AILMENT or RESPIRATORY CONDITION SUCH AS ASTHMA OR EMPHYSEMA, STAY AWAY FROM THE SMOKE. Any smoke within a building should be immediately reported to the persons conducting the tests.

In addition, 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.

PRIOR TO SMOKE TESTING, THE TOWN OF ROCKLAND MUST IDENTIFY LOCATIONS OF RESIDENTS WITH POOR HEALTH CONDITIONS. ALTHOUGH THE SMOKE IS NON-TOXIC AND NON-STAINING, IT IS CAPABLE OF CAUSING IRRITATION, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WITH LUNG AILMENTS SUCH AS ASTHMA OR EMPHYSEMA. IF YOU HAVE A RELATED HEALTH CONDITION, PLEASE CONTACT WESTON & SAMPSON ENGINEERS, INC. AT [\(781\) 909-4054](tel:7819094054). PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE INCLUDING YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AND YOUR CALL WILL BE RETURNED PROMPTLY.

THE TEST WILL BE PERFORMED THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 16. A SECOND NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED ONE TO THREE BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE START OF THE WORK.

Please visit Town of Rockland Webpage at www.rockland-ma.gov for more information.

PLEASE NOTE:

- YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE AT HOME DURING THE SMOKE TESTING.
- IF YOU WORK DURING THE DAY, PLEASE TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO VENTILATE THE AREA WHERE YOUR PET WILL BE.

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.