



Engineering and Public Works
Department

(847) 853-7500

September 11, 2017

Re: Smoke Testing to Begin Week of September 25

Dear Resident:

In conjunction with the Village's ongoing efforts to improve the performance of the separate sanitary sewer system in your neighborhood, we will be conducting a smoke testing program to identify locations where stormwater is entering the Village's sanitary sewer system. Unwanted stormwater can overwhelm the sanitary system and lead to basement sewer backups. Smoke testing is a simple means of locating openings in the sewer system that allow surface rainwater runoff to enter the sanitary sewers. The purpose of this smoke testing study is to identify and address these sources of stormwater inflow and infiltration (I/I). The study will be performed by the engineering firm RJN Group, Inc.

During the smoke testing, it is common to see smoke on your property. **This smoke is non-toxic.** Air combined with non-toxic smoke is forced into the sewer lines to disclose the location of connections and leaks. Smoke will appear where there are defects in the main sewer line or laterals (connection between the main line and a building) or where there are other connections to the sewer system such as roof drains, patio drains, and footing drains.

Smoke **should not** enter buildings unless there is defective plumbing or dried-up drain traps. **To help prevent smoke from entering your home, please pour water into infrequently used sinks and floor drains.** You should always feel free to call 911 in an emergency. However, if you believe smoke is entering your home from smoke testing, please contact a member of the RJN field crew if they are still on your street. If the RJN field crew is no longer in the area you may contact RJN Group's office at 630-682-4700.

The smoke is non-toxic, creates no fire hazard, leaves no residue, dissipates quickly, and is harmless. However, if someone in your home has respiratory problems, you may wish to take extra precautions on your own, such as leaving your home until the smoke testing is completed.

The smoke testing is expected to begin in your area the week of September 25 and will take approximately two weeks to complete. Additional notification will be provided by door hanger cards 24-72 hours before the smoke testing is to start.

For more information on smoke testing, please visit the RJN website: www.rjn.com/client-portal. If you have questions, please call Shilpa Ghia at RJN at (630) 682-4700 ext.367 or the Village of Wilmette's Public Works Department at (847) 853-7500. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during our planned improvement to our Village.

Sincerely,


Brigitte Berger-Raish, P.E.
Director of Engineering and Public Works