

# City of Paris

## Upcoming Smoke Testing

### Current Project Information:

Smoke Testing will be performed to assess the City of Paris sanitary sewer main beginning at 101 Castle Boulevard and extending south to 322 Castle Boulevard. This work will be performed by an outside contractor and is slated to begin on October 2th 2023. Impacted residents and businesses will receive a door hanger with information on this project.

### What is Smoke Testing?

Smoke testing is an important part of the sewer maintenance program that helps find cracks, breaks, and other problems with sewer lines.

Smoke testing involves injecting a harmless smoke into sewer manholes, then watching to see where the smoke escapes. It's normal for smoke to come out of sewer vent pipes on roofs. If smoke emerges from storm drains or rises from lawns, sidewalks, or the street, that may mean there's a cracked pipe, damaged manhole, or connection with a storm drain. The City only schedules and performs repairs to City of Paris sewer lines. The customer is responsible for repairs to their own plumbing system discovered by the smoke testing process.

### What to expect

Smoke is supposed to escape through sewer vent pipes on roofs. These vent pipes allow sewer gases to vent outside.

Occasionally, this harmless smoke will enter a home. This smoke is safe and non-toxic and will not cause damage. It may indicate a problem with the sewer plumbing in the home and may mean sewer gases are also entering the home. The customer is responsible for repairs to their own plumbing system.

The Fire Department is aware of the scheduled testing.

### Is it necessary?

The sewer system was designed to collect waste from homes and businesses, **not** rainwater or ground water. When they enter the sewer system through cracked pipes, it takes up needed capacity in the sewer system, especially during heavy rain events. In severe cases, this may cause sewer system overflows (SSOs), which are an environmental and public health hazard. Having a sewer system with limited ground water or rainwater infiltration also saves on the cost to operate and maintain the system.

To prevent this unwanted infiltration and inflow into the sewer system, this process helps to find and fix problems with sewer pipes and manholes such as root intrusion, deterioration of aging pipes, and connections of storm water pipes to sewer lines.